FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

Iraq will soon possess weapons capable of destroying Khark Island, President Saddam Husayn stated in a speech carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The president disclosed that Iraq will receive new weapons that will destroy Iran's economy "on the land, and not just on Khark Island." He asserted that Iraq will not retract its decision to intensify the siege of Khark. Regarding possible U.S. intervention in the Gulf, Saddam Husayn said that Arab countries do not need U.S. assistance.

The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* , reported by INA, criticized "suspect voices" attempting to separate the "oil tanker war" from the Iraq-Iran war. *ATH-THAWRAH* characterized notions of ending the tanker war while allowing the Gulf war to continue as "futile, short sighted, and malicious," adding that those who believe they can end the tanker war while "maintaining" the war between Iran and Iraq will be disappointed; the only possible solution is to end the war.

A Syrian spokesman cited by the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* denied that Syria's "approval" of the Arab foreign ministers' condemnation of Iran's attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers represented a change in the country's policy on the Iran-Iraq war, noting that Syria opposes any attacks on tankers traveling in Gulf waters.

Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' left for Tehran with a message from President Hafiz al-Asad concerning tension in the region, according to Damascus radio.

In another development, SPA reported that the general secretary of the ICO called for an extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, which has been involved in several attempts to mediate in the Gulf war.

Lebanon

Israeli artillery shelled Syrian positions in the Al-Biqa' valley on the morning of 23 May, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, Beirut was calm after several people were killed in random shelling the previous night, according to Beirut radio.

An earlier Beirut radio report that four Israelis were killed in an ambush south of Sidon was not mentioned by monitored Israeli sources.

Jordan

A peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is impossible without the participation of the Soviet Union and all other permanent members of the UN Security Council, King Husayn declared in an interview with *LE FIGARO*. Asserting that such a settlement will guarantee implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, the king deplored the U.S. position on Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories as a "big obstacle to peace" and warned that it will not be possible for Jordan to maintain relations with the United States if the latter transfers its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jidda and was received by King Fahd, SPA reported. Meanwhile, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio denied a Moroccan claim that the PLO had given prior approval for the recent Jewish conference in Rabat, asserting that Morocco's statement in this regard contained "allegations and slanders." The radio reaffirmed that the PLO had no connection with the matter and denounced Morocco for hosting the conference and welcoming a "Zionist" delegation that included Knesset members. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio responded to the new alliance established by anti-'Arafat factions by lambasting the "Damascus dummies" and their "new novelty." The radio also accused Syria of attempting to prevent a PNC meeting in order to keep the PLO divided and subservient.

Egypt

A Foreign Ministry source cited by MENA affirmed that Egypt is "precisely" adhering to the terms of the military appendix to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, asserting that the total number of Egyptian forces east of the Suez Canal is less than that permitted in the agreement. The statement came in response to Israeli accusations that Egypt has violated terms in the appendix.

Libya

Nuclear Nonproliferation — The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency disclosed that Libya has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, thereby undertaking not to develop nuclear weapons, Paris radio reported.

Foreign Relations — Libya has suspended relations with Liberia and Zaire because of their resumption of relations with the "Zionist enemy," JANA announced. Meanwhile, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived in Tripoli at the start of an official visit, Tripoli radio noted.

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Yasir 'Arafat Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH

PM221500 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 May 84 pp 11-13

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Arafat Hijazi in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] I said: Let us begin with this visit. How far have the talks with King Husayn and the Jordanian Government progressed? The talks have been going on for for more than a year and a half and we are still hearing of further meetings to continue the talks. What point have you reached and when will the talks end?

['Arafat] We had talks in Jordan and reached an agreement after the early stages of the talks following our departure from Beirut. When I visit Jordan and meet the king or my brothers pay such visits, it does not mean that we are still continuing the talks. Rather there is a need for continuous meetings in order to coordinate and exchange views. A clear example of this is my present visit, which will end in a few hours' time, after which I will leave for China. I will take with me both the Jordanian views and the Palestinian views, which I will present to the Chinese leadership. In other words, I am representing Jordan just as I represent Palestine on this important mission to a state that has considerable weight and influence in international politics. I believe that everybody knows that King Husayn, with the PLO's authorization, also presented the Palestinian views during his visit to the United States and Britain. This is probably the best evidence of the fact that we have gone beyond the stage of talks and we are now in the stage of agreement and joint coordination.

[Hijazi] The return of parliamentary life to Jordan has created a new reality. There are 30 deputies in the Jordanian parliament representing the West Bank. Do those deputies represent the Palestinian people and participate in presenting its case?

['Arafat] I believe that some people have misinterpreted this development. Our ties with Jordan are based on mutual confidence and true brotherhood. On the basis of this mutual confidence and brotherhood we have been satisfied with Jordan's official statement on this matter — that the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan does not affect what was agreed in Rabat in 1974 regarding the PLO representation of the Palestinian people.

[Hijazi] If your relations with Jordan have reached this level of confidence, agreement, and coordination, there can be no doubt that your relations with most of the Arab countries are similar. But there remain three states which we have to discuss here. These are Saudi Arabia and its role in mediations, Syria and the disputes with it, and Egypt, whose return to the Arab ranks is the subject of conflicting views. Could you define your relations with these countries?

['Arafat] We in the PLO highly appreciate the mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia. Our relations with it are good and close, particularly with King Fahd, with whom we have constant consultations both during personal meetings and at Arab, Islamic, and international conferences.

[Hijazi] What about Syria?

['Arafat] I must recall here what I said at the ICO, which met in Casablanca following our departure from Tripoli. I said at the conference that the terrible conspiracy which Zionism is trying to implement, and which is its historical dream, is to divide the Arab ranks so that it is easy for it to establish sectarian states in Lebanon. What is happening in Lebanon should be a serious warning to our Arab nation. For this reason we believe that we should rise above the wounds. In any case the barriers that some people think exist between us and Syria are imaginary, because there is more than one channel connecting us with our Syrian brothers.

[Hijazi] What is new in your relations with Egypt following the uproar over your visit to Cairo and meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak?

['Arafat] Our relations with Egypt are based on national and patriotic principles. They are well considered, consistent, and not based on emotionalism. We should recall here David Ben Gurion's saying. He said: We should take Egypt out of the arena of conflict with the Arabs. As for the eastern area, we should divide it so as to make it easier to dominate it. It was in the light of our understanding of this strategic reality that we decided at the PNC to seek to work for the return of Egypt [to the Arab fold] and get closer to it as it distances itself from Camp David.

Anyone observing the important steps Egypt has taken since my visit to it, following my departure from Tripoli, will notice the positive and important steps President Husni Mubarak has taken in this direction, beginning with the closure of the Egyptian Consulate in Eilat, the adoption of a hard line on the question of Tabah, and the severance of relations with El Salvador for moving its embassy to Jerusalem.

Also President Husni Mubarak stood in the very place where As-Sadat signed the Camp David agreement and said in a speech while standing next to President Reagan that there will be no solution for the Palestinian problem without the PLO. He also agreed to host the conference on solidarity with the Palestinian people. And, last but not least, he took the initiative to end the Gulf war. We must realize and understand the significance of Egypt's stand at the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council, in which Egypt now represents the Arab group. We supported the idea that Egypt should represent the Arab group, despite objections from many sides.

[Hijazi] What about your relations with the Soviet Union?

['Arafat] Our relations with the Soviet Union are more than strong. The attitude of Brother Aliyev, the Soviet leadership's emissary who visited Damascus, was a real expression of the strength of Soviet-Palestinian ties. A mark of our appreciation of the Soviet Union's role was our acceptance of its mediation in clearing the air with Syria.

[Hijazi] Our real problem is with our real enemy, who is daily practicing terror against us and carrying out plans aimed at our existence. The discovery has been announced of a Zionist gang which calls itself "Terror Against Terror." Do you have plans to strike at such terror or to stop it?

['Arafat] I disagree with you. There is no organization called this. What there is is "official terror" controlled from a room which is attached to the prime minister's office, which was established during Begin's rule, and which is still operating to this day. We have data and reliable information about this room and the various organizations that come under it, specializing in various types of bombing, killing, and terror. Each of these organizations has a special task to carry out. Therefore, I warn the sons of my Arab nation not to fall for such misleading reports by the Zionist media saying that there are unofficial terrorist organizations. The enemy is trying to create such an impression among public opinion by its propaganda when it carries out sham arrests of [members of] these organizations, but soon releases them immediately after the media propaganda is over. I must point out that it was this official terror that was behind the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the attempts to blow up the Al-Aqsa mosque, the killing of students in Hebron, of brave men in prisons and detention camps, and of prisoners, as in the case of the recent operation against a bus in Rafah, and the placing of explosives in Arab buses.

[Hijazi] How long will you tolerate this terror?

['Arafat] We are different from them by virtue of our principles. We will not carry out cowardly and dastardly actions such as they do. The Higher Military Council has adopted a decision to escalate military operations in the occupied territories and in southern Lebanon only against military targets, not civilians.

[Hijazi] Shimon Peres announced that he is ready to negotiate on the basis of UN Resolution 242 and not on the basis of the Camp David agreement. How far can this statement be believed and how far can you differentiate between the Likud and the Labor alliance?

['Arafat] There is no difference between Peres and Shamir. You only have to go back to the Labor Party program to realize the difference between the two. The Israeli parties were put to the test when I put forward the peace challenge published in London's *THE OBSERVER*. In this challenge I stressed the establishment of just peace through the United Nations and the Security Council. What was the answer of the Labor Party, the Likud, and all the Zionist parties? It was what I expected — an impudent answer that revealed their true intentions about the peace which they boast of.

[Hijazi] As leader of the Palestinian revolution, you receive accurate reports about the difficulties Palestinian workers face as they are obliged to work in Israeli factories and farms. Today they are facing most abominable actions. Some have been dismissed while others are being forced to work 13 hours a day for the same wage. The purpose of this action is to increase unemployment among them and so force them to leave the country. What measures have you taken to deal with this tragedy?

['Arafat] What is happening in the occupied territories is a major crime by any standard. It is officially planned and is being implemented by the various bodies of Israeli military gangs in the Army and in the police. Settlers and businessmen are also taking part in this through the use of unjust laws and the seizure of lands. The injustice being meted out to the workers is only one of their treacherous means. I would like, through *AL-MAJALLAH*, to appeal to all the Arabs to stand up against the plan to evict the Palestinian people from their homeland and to contribute to the steadfastness of the people as they face systematic Zionist terror, in which all Israel's bodies and institutions are taking part. On this occasion I would like to say that the failure of some Arab countries to fulfill their obligations toward the steadfastness funds has caused these funds to shrink almost to one-fourth of the target. This is defaulting on the task of confronting the fiendish plans which Israel is trying to implement by every available means.

PLO Official on Moving Offices to Cairo

GF221704 Doha QNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpts] Doha, 22 May (QNA) — 'Abdallah al-Hawrani, director of the PLO Information Department, has warned that the continuation of the current Palestinian internal situation may negatively influence the Palestinian reality, the Palestinian masses, and the prestige of the PLO on the international level. In a statement to QNA before his departure from Doha today, 'Abdallah al-Hawrani said that the PLO is, in the first place, concerned about the Palestinian internal situation. Regarding reports circulated recently on the opening of 'Arafat's office in Cairo and the transfer of the Palestinian research center there, the Palestinian official said that there is an initial approval of the establishment of the research center, but Yasir 'Arafat's office [words indistinct] not discussed in this framework.

Fatah Delegation Ends Visit, Leaves Moscow

GF221754 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A Fatah delegation concluded a 5-day visit to the Soviet Union and left Moscow on 21 May. Soviet sources said that the Soviet and Palestinian sides emphasized the need to maintain the unity of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and condemned imperialist attempts to split the PLO. The Soviet sources said that the Fatah delegation — which included Fatah Central Committee members Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and Khalid al-Hasan — briefed the Soviet side on the steps that are being taken to restore PLO unity on patriotic and anti-imperialist bases. The delegation also discussed with officials of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee many issues with the aim of developing Palestinian-Soviet relations.

PLO Denies Advance Knowledge of Jewish Conference

LD230127 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Moroccan Embassy in Algiers handed out a statement to diplomatic missions and foreign journalists in Algeria which contained a number of allegations and slanders saying that the PLO had advance knowledge of the convening of the Zionist conference in Rabat. The Moroccan statement said that the conference was held with the agreement of the PLO. It is of concern to us here to repeat the assertion made by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the Political Department at the PLO, that the PLO had no connection with this matter and that he was puzzled by the unjust campaigns which are being waged against the PLO and the attempt to involve it in such matters for the purpose of bringing it into disrepute.

We also repeat the statement which was issued by the Palestinian meeting in Algiers, in which representatives of Fatah, the two popular and democratic fronts, the Palestinian CP, and the PLF denounced the step taken by the Moroccan regime by hosting the Jewish conference and welcoming a Zionist delegation, including about 40 Knesset members. The statement also denounced the step taken by the Moroccan regime at a time when the Jerusalem committee is under the chairmanship of Morocco. The statement of the Palestinian meeting urgedd the Arab nation and Arab presidents and kings to oppose this step and prevent Zionist infiltration of the heart of the Arab and Islamic ranks.

Al-Wazir Comments on Intra-Palestinian Dialogue

JN221832 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 22 May (INA) — Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that the sides participating in the Palestinian dialogue will meet in Aden on 8 June to finalize the PLO's political and organizational program and fix the date of the PNC's 17th session. In a statement to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, disseminated here today, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] added that the participants in the second round of dialogue, which was concluded in Algiers the day before yesterday, agreed to several formulas that have common denominators and decided to discuss some other formulas on which there was no agreement with their leaderships so that answers to them can be given at the next meeting in Aden. Abu Jihad, who headed Fatah's delegation to the Algiers meetings, said that the discussions among the resistance groups were involved, but difficult.

Resistance Operations in S. Lebanon Reported

JN221733 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have further escalated their daring military operations against Zionist occupation forces in occupied Lebanese territories, inflicting on them more casualties and losses. A group of resistance men fired Katyusha rockets on an Israeli position east of the Al-Oir‘awn lake in southern Lebanon. The rockets hit their targets and inflicted several casualties on the occupation soldiers.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted this shelling and, as usual, refrained from noting his losses. He said that the Israeli forces besieged the area and began a campaign is search of the resistance men, but all their attempts were in vain. The Zionist military spokesman also admitted an attack launched by Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men against a Zionist military patrol southeast of the port of Sidon at night. The spokesman could not hide his losses in this operation, but claimed that only one soldier was wounded.

Voice of PLO Criticizes 'Damascus Dummies'

JN222135 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1631 GMT 22 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Facts indicate every day that the Damascus regime is still pursuing the plot of striking at PLO unity, and that all the attempts to make this regime abandon this plot have failed. The Palestinian people followed with great concern the meetings of the Palestinian dialogue in Algiers. They noticed that all the parties in the dialogue, excluding the Fatah movement, had been subjected to various pressures by the Syrians in order to fail in setting a definite date for the PNC meetings.

These pressures take place at a time when there are no Palestinian national justifications for hampering the convocation of these meetings. It is not coincidence that on the day the Algiers dialogue ended, the Damascus dummies appeared on Syrian television to announce a new novelty, called the national salvation, or the national alliance, or some such novelty.

What do we understand from these facts that emerged from Damascus? We understand only one thing; namely, the Syrian regime, which besieged the Palestinian revolution in Tripoli in cooperation with Israel, expelled it from the Al-Biqa', and collaborated against the blood of the revolution's sons in southern Lebanon and Beirut, does not want to see a united PLO under a nationalist and historical leadership, but wants it to be a subservient organ to its desire or a propoganda instrument to use on its television.

The Syrian regime thus exerts pressure in order to prevent any Palestinian national understanding from taking place, as if it wants the PLO to turn into another Lebanon that is stricken with divisions and disputes in order to have decisions made by the Damascus ruler.

Although there are some parties in our arena that have to take Damascus into account, and there are also some dummies for Damascus that move in a puppet show manner, the Palestinian people and their effective forces are present in one world and the Damascus regime and its agents are present in another world. The Palestinian people support PLO unity and independent decisionmaking. Neither Damascus nor any other side can cast doubt on this reality. The Palestinian people support their legitimate leadership and will never support those who perpetrated the Tal az-Za‘tar massacre and collaborated against the blood of our citizens in the Al-Baddawi, Al-Barid, and Al-Yarmuk camps.

Our Palestinian people who protected the revolution during the most grave circumstances are able to continue sacrificing and perpetuating PLO unity far from the dummies, instruments, plotters, putschists, and those who are filled with grudge and hatred against the Palestinian phenomenon and its revolutionary image embodied by the PLO.

Voice of PLO on U.S. Intervention in Gulf

JN221938 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, we have always said that the most dangerous thing that could take place in the Arab region, especially the Gulf region, through the continuation and escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, is direct U.S. military intervention on the pretext of protecting the freedom of shipping in the Arab Gulf.

President Reagan yesterday frankly revealed the dimensions of the U.S. intent of military intervention in the region. He urged the Gulf states to request U.S. air support for protecting freedom of movement for the oil tankers in the Arab Gulf. This is the banner under which the Americans want to enter the region militarily.

The real objective —which is not easy to hide — is direct military control over oil sources in this region to employ these resources within the framework of U.S. universal strategy confronting the Soviet Union. Apart from this, the freedom of shipping called for by the United States in the Arab Gulf is a suspect call aimed at keeping the Iraq-Iran war raging. This exposes the nature of the U.S. position on this war.

This call confirms that the U.S. Administration does not want this war to stop. Otherwise, what is the meaning of securing freedom of shipping to oil tankers without mentioning the real problem in a clear and frank position? We understand that securing freedom of shipping in the American way means undermining any attempt to end the war, because U.S. warplanes — in the context of their suspect protection of freedom of shipping — will secure the exit of foreign oil tankers from Khark Island and other terminals, which means providing the necessities of continuing the war for the Iranian side. Why the Iranian side? Because it is the one which has been refusing to end the war peacefully. It remains for us to say that the surprise is not the U.S. position, but rather the military reports published in some Arab papers in the Gulf, saying that a Hawkeye early warning plane was flying over the Arab Gulf. The reports say the plane is unidentified. What are the AWACs doing then? How can the Hawkeye early warning plane be an unidentified plane?

We are worried that Reagan's call comes after it has been already carried out. We mean that we are worried that some Arab states in the Gulf may have accepted Reagan's call before it was announced. If this has taken place, then what has happened to the call of implementing the Arab Joint Defense Pact among the Arab countries stipulated by the Arab League Charter? It is frightening to go far in these questions, because this will lead us to imagine that the call for implementing the pact was only to throw dust in the eyes. We hope that this is not true. But what can hopes do, if the deed is already done?

Chatti Asks Good Offices Committee To Meet

LD221144 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1012 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 22 May (SPA) — The Saudi news agency has learned from circles close to the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] General Secretariat that Habib Chatti, general secretary of the organization, has forwarded an invitation to all members of the Islamic Good Offices Committee to hold an extraordinary session during the next few days at the organization's headquarters in Jidda. In these invitations, it was stated that due to the explosive situation being witnessed by the Gulf area, as a result of dangerous developments of the Iraq-Iran conflict which threaten the security of the region and world peace, it is incumbent on the committee to meet and discuss the situation. The committee includes in its membership Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Malaysia, the PLO, and the ICO secretary general.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Postpones Ministerial Council Session to 29 May

LD222009 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Riyadh 22 May (SPA) — It has been decided to postpone the 11th ordinary session of the GCC Ministerial Council until Tuesday, 28 Sha'ban [29 May] instead of Saturday, 25 Sha'ban [26 May].

A statement issued today by the GCC General Secretariat pointed out this was due to two foreign ministers of the GCC being in New York — namely Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, the foreign minister of Qatar and chairman of the current session, and Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy premier, foreign and information minister, who will join him this week to present to the UN Security Council the views of the GCC states on Iranian aircraft attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers in their territorial waters.

The statement pointed out that 'Abdallah Bisharah, the GCC secretary general, is now in New York to prepare the resolution which the GCC states will present for convening of a UN Security Council emergency session to discuss these attacks.

Following his meeting with the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council, Bisharah said the council's emergency session will probably be held Thursday or Friday to discuss this question and that the session will probably continue for 2 or 3 days.

KUNA Details Request

LD221638 Kuwait KUNA in English 1608 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] United Nations, May 22 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah of Kuwait will address an urgent meeting of the Security Council Friday on the situation in the Arabian Gulf, it was reliably reported Tuesday.

A formal request for a meeting of the 15-nation council was submitted Monday by the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The foreign minister of Qatar, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and possibly the Bahraini foreign minister will also travel to New York for the meeting.

The meeting was called "to consider the Iranian aggressions on the freedom of navigation to and from the ports of our countries," the six GCC representatives said in a letter to the current council president.

GCC Official Confers With Upper Volta Foreign Minister

LD200923 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Riyadh 20 May (SPA) — Ibrahim Hammud as-Subhi, the GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs, conferred this morning with Arba Diallo, the Upper Voltan minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting, they reviewed the current situation in the region and the Iraq-Iran war in particular.

The Upper Voltan foreign minister expressed the readiness of his country to assist in ending this destructive war through its membership in the ICO and in the current session of the Security Council.

Arba Diallo arrived in Riyadh last night from Jidda within the framework of his current visit to the Kingdom.

BAHRAIN

Niger Foreign Minister Oumarou Meets With Amir

GF221827 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] His highness the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received at the Ar-Rifa' Palace at 0830 this morning Ide Oumarou, the Niger foreign minister and chairman of the UN commission and the OAU committee for refugee affairs, and the delegation accompanying him on this visit to the country.

The visiting minister briefed the amir on the preparations the committee is making to hold an international conference on refugees in Geneva 9-11 July. The two sides also reviewed the issue of refugees worldwide and the means of solving their problems.

Departs 22 May

GF221828 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 May (WAKH) — Ide Oumarou, Niger foreign minister, chairman of the UN commission, and head of the OAU committee for refugee affairs, left Manama for Doha today after a 2-day visit to Bahrain, within the framework of his tour of a number of the region's states.

Foreign Minister Returns From Paris, Tunis Visits

GF221857 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs, returned home at 1900 today after leading Bahrain's delegation to the Arab League's extraordinary conference, which was held in Tunis 19-20 May.

He also made an official visit to France yesterday, Monday, at an invitation from Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations. During the talks between the Bahraini and French sides, views were exchanged on a number of issues which concern them, particularly developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the GCC countries' move to convene a meeting of the Security Council to discuss Iran's recent attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers.

He was received at the airport by Rene Molinari, French ambassador to Bahrain, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Monte Carlo Interview

JN211922 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 84

['Ali Hashim dispatch from Paris]

[Text] Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah held lengthy talks with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson at noon today. They dealt with the recent developments in the Arab Gulf. The Bahraini minister arrived in Paris from Tunis yesterday after participating in the emergency conference which the Arab foreign ministers held at the request of the GCC states to discuss the Iranian attacks on the Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers.

Following his meeting with Cheysson at the French External Relations Ministry, Shaykh Muhammad told Radio Monte Carlo his visit was aimed at exchanging viewpoints with Cheysson on issues of common concern to the two countries, including — of course — the recent Gulf developments.

Asked if the talks touched on the industrial states' stand toward the Gulf war and what these states' next summit could adopt, he said talks with Cheysson dealt with France's stand first and with the stand of the European and industrial states second. He added that relations with France are good and are characterized by serious understanding and cooperation, and that contacts will continue with France and other European states to continue consultations, exchange of viewpoints, and coordination of joint diplomatic activities.

The Bahraini minister said that no discussion was held on any military action that the European states may undertake due to the developments of the Gulf war.

He described the Tunis conference as successful and good in its results. The conference, he added, indicated the presence of a general Arab solidarity, contrary to what was reported about the Gulf states' dissatisfaction with the conference and its results.

Regarding the current military exercises in one of the Gulf states, he said these exercises are routine ones aimed at coordination among the armies of the region's states, and that they have nothing to do with the escalation of war.

The Bahraini minister will leave for home tomorrow without holding more meetings or consultations.

KUWAIT

UN Representative Addresses UNSC on 'Ayn al-Hulwah

LD212256 Kuwait KUNA in English 1920 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] United Nations, May 21 (KUNA) — The permanent representative of Kuwait, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Monday held Israel responsible for the latest escalation of tension in south Lebanon, and called upon the Security Council to implement its own numerous decisions concerning the Palestinian question.

Speaking on behalf of the Arab group, Abu al-Hasan told the council that the Israeli Government is trying "to distort the image" of the Palestinians and to present them as "a group of terrorists" in order to eradicate from memories that they are struggling for their inalienable rights. "If the Israelis look back into their own history, they would realise that the policy of aggression and annexation will never end the struggle of the people determined to win back its rights," the Kuwaiti envoy said.

The meeting was requested by the Arab group to take up the Israeli raid last week on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp near the city of Sidon in south Lebanon.

The secretary-general's report on the incident, made public Friday, said 23 Palestinians were wounded, 3 of them seriously, when a bomb went off [word indistinct] the Israeli search. Later, the report said, one woman was killed and several people were wounded.

The Palestine Liberation Organization said 60 Palestinians were killed or wounded, some 30 houses destroyed and 150 people arrested during the operation.

Israel, as an occupying power, assumes alone the complete responsibility of what is happening in the occupied Arab territories, Abu al-Hasan said.

Therefore, he said, Israel must not only stop torturing and arresting civilians and dispossessing them, but also protect them and their property until a solution is found to the problem.

The Arab group representative said the council must bring Israel to put an end to violations of international law in the occupied territories and to institute guarantees that violations of international law and U.N. resolutions will not be repeated.

Turning to the incident at the Palestinian camp itself, Abu al-Hasan said 'Ayn al-Hulwah is not "a separate crime, it is not the first or last crime of it kind Israel commits, it is only one link of an endless chain of inhuman crimes committed and still being committed by Israel in its desparate attempts to firm its grip on the occupied territories, whether in south Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza or the Golan Heights."

Abu al-Hasan also reminded the council that it must bear its full responsibilities by implementing numerous resolutions, such as the one demanding Israel to withdraw from all Arab and Palestinian territories cocupied since 1967.

In addition, he called on the council to implement resolutions demanding the full rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the creation of a Palestinian state.

Finally, Abu al-Hasan said the council must enforce the resolution calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and guaranteeing the independence and territorial integrity of that country.

OMAN

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sees Iraqi Envoy

GF221356 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received the Iraqi ambassador to the Sultanate this morning. Bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries were discussed.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis Conference

GF201906 Doha QNA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 20 May (QNA) — Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani returned to Doha this evening, after leading Qatar's delegation to the extraordinary Arab foreign ministers conference, which was held at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

Niger Foreign Minister Oumarou Arrives

GF221830 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Doha, 22 May (WAKH) — Niger Foreign Minister Ide Oumarou arrived here today for talks with Qatari officials in preparation for the international conference on refugees to be held in Geneva next month. The Niger minister is current head of the UN commission for African refugees.

Syrian Information Minister in Doha for Arab Meeting

JN191544 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Doha — Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh and the accompanying delegation arrived at 1330 this afternoon in Doha, the capital of Qatar, to participate in the meetings of the seven-member committee of Arab information ministers which will be opened tomorrow, Sunday. He was met at the airport by Qatari Information Minister 'Isa al-Kuwari.

Statement to AR-RAYAH

JN221912 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Doha — Syrian Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh has affirmed Syria's readiness to confront and deter any forthcoming Israeli aggression. This came in an important statement he made to the Qatari newspaper *AR-RAYAH* published today. He also emphasized that Syria was the first party to warn against the dangers of the war the Iraqi regime waged against Iran — a war that consumed Iraq's efforts and potential in a course against the Arab nation's interests. He spoke about Egypt's historical role and Syrian concern about its returning to the Arab fold, provided it rid itself of the Camp David accords. He noted Syria's firm and principled role in Lebanon, represented by supporting national reconciliation and voicing concern about the Arabism of Lebanon's people and land.

Rajjuh held talks in Doha today with Qatari Information Minister 'Isa al-Kuwari during which they reviewed a comprehensive information draft agreement aimed at strengthening information cooperation between the two brotherly countries on all information levels. This draft agreement includes the exchange of television and radio production and also the exchange of information, cultural, and artistic delegations. This is in addition to taking steps for the exchange of the aspects of development and success which the Arab people in both Syria and Qatar have achieved in serving the Arab masses' aspirations and unified goals.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Receives U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

GF221926 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received today Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs.

Foreign Minister Receives UNSC Countries' Envoys

LD201752 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 20 May [SPA] — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, received today at his office in the Foreign Ministry the ambassadors of the United Nations Security Council permanent members countries accredited to the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan and the chief of the Western Department in the Foreign Ministry, Ma'mun Qabbani.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Jidda

LD221337 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1319 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 22 May (SPA) — The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived this afternoon in Jidda on a visit to the Kingdom. He was received at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn al-Muhsin, deputy governor of the Holy Mecca region; Major General Salim as-Sidays, commander of the Western region; and several other officials.

Meets With King Fahd

LD222135 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2052 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 22 May (SPA) — This evening King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in the presence of Fatah representative to the Kingdom Rafiq an-Natshah and member of the Fatah Central Committee Hani al-Hasan.

Meets ICO Secretary General

LD231051 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1027 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 23 May (SPA) — Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, at ICO headquarters in Jidda today. The meeting was attended by Salman al-Harfi, 'Arafat's political adviser; and Rafiq an-Natshah, Fatah representative in the Kingdom.

Prince Sultan Interviewed on Economic Balance Program

LD212212 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 21 May 84

[Interview with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, inspector general; by unidentified SPA reporter; time and place not given]

[Text] Jidda, 21 May (SPA) — Question: Your Royal Highness, local and international information media have lately dealt with the issue of economic balance. Can Your Royal Highness shed some light on the issue by defining the economic balance program?

Answer: His majesty, may God preserve him, has approved the setting up of a command, control, and communications system for the Air Force which will contribute, God willing, to greatly raising the effectiveness of our air forces and this huge project depends on the latest technology, a matter which made us oblige companies to invest the equivalent of 35 percent of the sums spent on equipment and technical services to establish advanced industries in the Kingdom with the participation of national companies.

Question: What made Your Royal Highness think in this direction?

Answer: Indeed his majesty the king and his loyal crown prince are always eager to see the Kingdom as self-sufficient as possible. Also they are eager to derive utmost benefit from contracts with international specialist companies in cycling of the money they receive. We in the Kingdom and at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation felt our responsibility extended not just to building our Armed Forces but to benefitting from our projects in widening the Kingdom's industrial base. When we started the command, control, and communications project, "the Peace Shield Project," for the Air Force, the inclination of officials in the Armed Forces was to eagerly benefit from the advanced technology in this project and transfer whatever could apply to the Kingdom. Officials in the Armed Forces have presented studies on the way technology can be transferred. Those studies called for making companies bidding for the Peace Shield Project invest a percentage of the cost in establishing electronic, electrical, and mechanical industries to constitute, with the basic industries in Al-Jubayl and Yanb'u, an expansion of the industrial base in the Kingdom.

Question: Your Royal Highness, can you give us an idea of the objectives of this program?

Answer: The objective, economic balance, is in line with the government's firm policy of achieving continued technical development in the military and civilian sectors together in order to acquire advanced technology. This program aims at enabling the Kingdom to become self-sufficient in the field of advanced industry in order to preserve its security, stability, and economic development and to make the Kingdom an independent partner in the international community instead of a single-product producer — this, in addition to the good benefits it will bring the citizens.

Question: There is no doubt, Your Majesty, that this program will consolidate our industrial capabilities in the Kingdom. Can your Royal Highness comment on the direct yield this will bring to the Saudi citizen?

Answer: The benefits to the citizen are many. For instance, this program will provide the citizen with the opportunity to invest in the capital of these industries. On the other hand, these factories will increase the job opportunities especially for the graduates of universities, colleges, and institutions. Also these factories will be a fertile ground for developing talents and increasing the experience of our sons in technology, in addition to the benefits researchers in the public and private sectors will reap along with scientific institutions in carrying out applied research.

Question: Your Royal Highness, could you please comment on the role of the other ministries in this program.

Answer: When we completed the studies on the ways of implementing this ambitious program, we explained the dimensions of the program to the brothers their excellencies the ministers of finance and national economy, planning, industry and electricity, and commerce. They realized the importance of this program and its economic return. We proposed to their excellencies the ministers consolidating the Air Force by taking part in the committee concerned with the implementation procedures.

Question: Your Highness, how do you envisage the role of the government in supporting this program?

Answer: Great efforts have been made to implement this program. His majesty's government continues to support this program through the Ministry of Defense and the participation of the ministries concerned to give these industries their fruit, God willing. The role of the government would then be confined to following up and offering advice. Moreover his majesty's government has provided great advantages to back industrialization in the Kingdom, such as the industrial development fund and encouraging local products. This program will benefit from all those provided advantages.

Question: Your Highness, could you give us examples of the possible industries?

Answer: This question is premature now, because it depends on the study of economic advantages; however, we are looking forward to establishment of industries which would have good return in consolidating the needs of both the public and private sectors and which would be able to compete in world markets.

Among the anticipated industries to be established are electronic industries of advanced technology.

Question: What is the size of this program?

Answer: The program's size depends directly on the industries to be selected and absorbed by the economic basis. However the initial estimation of the program's size is approximately $1 billion.

Question: Your Highness, Second Deputy Premier, when will the implementation of this program begin?

Answer: The actual implementation is expected to begin after 1 year, God willing.

Question: Your Highness the Prince, what is the share of the national companies in the capital of the partnership companies?

Answer: The share of the national companies will be equivalent to 50 percent of the capital of this partnership company.

Question: Your Highness, which are the national companies?

Answer: Not all the national companies have been named yet. However, SABIC [Saudi Basic Industries Corporation] will be one of them.

Question: Your Highness, where does the economic balance program stand now?

Answer: We have already defined for the competing companies in the "Shield of Peace" project the conditions which must be followed when they are making their offers. For a long time these companies have been preparing the necessary studies for the feasibility of the possible industries and the ways to market and run them. These companies are in constant touch with the Air Force. When the companies which will implement the "Shield of Peace" project have been defined, those companies will begin to set up the industries with the participating Saudi companies.

Question: Your Highness, will the concept of the economic balance be the general policy for state projects?

Answer: Several observations were previously made by the government quarters about the question of obtaining indirect return as a result of government contracts which have international value. This concept has not been applied to government contracts up to now, however. This program will be taken as an example and if successful — and we believe it will be — the signing of future contracts and economic balance will become the focus of attention in this country.

Arab Muslim Moves To Resolve Iran-Iraq War Viewed

LD211357 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 May 84

[From the "Political Analyses" program, presented by 'Ali Abdullah al-Mani']

[Text] No doubt the continuation of the war between the two Muslim countries of Iraq and Iran has brought the Arab and Islamic nations face to face with extremely dangerous challenges. As a result, the security and stability of the region have become threatened, particularly following the escalation of the situation by Iran by its attacking Gulf oil tankers. Following this escalation, voices of denunciation were raised which demanded the attack on Arab tankers in the Arabian Gulf should be regarded as aggression to be condemned. Out of their concern and resolve to safeguard the security of the region and to keep the latter away from the dangers of foreign interventions, the member-states of the GCC are currently making concentrated efforts in an endeavor to reach a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict and to prevent its spreading.

At their recent meeting in Tunis, the Arab foreign ministers adopted a resolution proposed by the member states of the GCC, denouncing the Iranian attacks on the Gulf oil tankers in the waters and waterways of the council member states. The resolution condemned the attacksin view of its dangerous consequences to security and stability in the region, and called on Iran to desist from repeating such attacks on navigation to and from the ports of the GCC member states to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, waterways ports, and economic establishments of these countries, and to abide by the duties of goodneighborliness, the principles of international law, and UN resolutions. Within the framework of the seven-man Arab ministerial committee charged with following up the development of the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and the Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, are visiting Tokyo, where they are to hold talks with Japanese Government officials on the present escalation of the war and means by which the conflict between Iraq and Iran can be resolved peacefully.

At the same time 'Abdallah Bisharah, general secretary of the GCC, is making similar efforts. He is due to start today a series of diplomatic contacts with senior officials at the United Nations and delegates of the member states of the Security Council, particularly the major powers. In his speech to the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis, the foreign minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, reaffirmed that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war represents a serious crack in the wall of Islamic solidarity which the Islamic nation is striving to bolster. There is great hope that the Arab and Islamic efforts will succeed in ending this war, in which gigantic Islamic energies have been wasted, energies which should have been used for the liberation of holy Jerusalem and all Islamic holy places in Palestine from the Zionist enemy.

UAE

Official Meets U.S., British, French, Iranian Envoys

GF221648 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 May (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with U.S. Ambassador to UAE George Lumsden. Rashid 'Abdallah also met with British Ambassador to UAE Harold Walker and French Ambassador to the UAE Jean Honnorat.

During these meetings, bilateral relations between the United States, Britain, and France with the UAE and the recent developments in the Gulf region, especially the recent attacks against Saudi and Kuwaiti ships in the region, were discussed.

Rashid 'Abdallah also met with Iranian Ambassador to UAE Mahmud Sadat Madar-Shahi. During the meeting, the Iranian ambassador conveyed a message to him from Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the recent developments in the Gulf region.

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Session Opens 21 May

GF211616 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] The meetings of the 17th session of the Supreme People's Council began today under Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

At the outset of the session, the members of the council stood 1 minute in silence in memory of late Supreme People's Council member Mubarak Salim al-Bushi.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad presented to the council the political report issued between the two sessions which contained the state's activities in all spheres.

The report noted that the session is being held amid very vital internal circumstances and a very complicated international situation, which requires more action and activities to implement our country's policy on both domestic and foreign levels. It added that the past 4 months witnessed intensive efforts by the concerned organs. The economy was the sphere receiving most of attention in implementing the council's resolutions. In light of the resolutions and recommendations of the 11th Session of the YSP Central Committee, measures were taken in the economy to reduce expenses and increase revenues and to make the utmost efforts to improve the methods and means of the production and services sectors within the framework of the fourth year of the economic and social development plan.

The report touched upon the efforts the government is making in light of the YSP Central Committee's instructions to prepare for the comprehensive illiteracy campaign. The report emphasized that preparations are underway for this campaign to eradicate illiteracy by educating 218,000 people throughout the republic.

The report dealt with the unity efforts which the past stage witnessed through continued contacts and meetings by the leadership of the two parts of the homeland. It noted that the convocation of the second session of the Supreme Yemeni Council was an important event in the framework of unity relations. It also emphasized tht efforts are continuing in this direction with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland to implement the resolutions of the first and second session of the Yemeni council. This will enhance the effort to achieve Yemeni unity on peaceful and democratic bases.

The report dealt with the current Arab situation and noted it is characterized by the increasing aggressive challenges which threaten our Arab peoples on the part of Zionist and imperialist forces and Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and the increasing aggressive threats and conspiracies against Syria, Libya and the Palestinian revolution. It referred to the role our country has played in preserving the PLO's unity and enhancing its alliance with Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. It condemned the Moroccan regime's hosting the conference of the Jewish community members in Morrocco and its invitation to a delegation from the Israeli Knesset to attend the conference. It noted this stand is considered dealing with the Zionist entity and is part of the Camp David plot.

The report affirmed our country's principled stand in support of the struggle of the Arab liberation movements with all their nationalist and progressive forms and factions against conspiratorial designs aimed at restoring imperialist hegemony in the Arab region.

Regarding the international situation, the report pointed out it is characterized by mounting tension as a result of the imperialist plots against national liberation movements, particularly in our Arab region, South Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean Sea. The report emphasized the escalation of aggressive and expansionist policies by the world imperialist forces and their agents requires more cohesion among the Arab and international liberation movements and greater unity in their strategic alliance with forces loving freedom, progress, socialism, and peace in the world, foremost of which are the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries.

The council discussed a report on the progress of the important preparations for the all-out national campaign to eradicate illiteracy and to set up an education system for the elderly. The council expressed satisfaction over the good preparations for the all-out illiteracy campaign and affirmed the need to muster all efforts and potentials to launch the campaign, which is a national and historical duty.

The council will meet tomorrow to continue discussion of its agenda topics.

Chairman Appoints New Ministers

GF221518 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today issued three decrees of the Supreme People's Council regarding the appointment of a number of ministers.

Article 1 of the decrees: Appointment of Brother Ahmad Muhammad al-Qa'tabi as minister of state; Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin as minister of housing; and Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh as minister of state.

Article 2 of the second decree: Cancellation of any previous appointments.

The rest of the decrees' articles stated the decrees are enacted as of the date of issuance and their publication in the official gazette.

Final Meeting Discusses Laws

GF221407 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] The meetings of the 17th session of the Supreme People's Council, which began yesterday under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, concluded this morning.

During its final meeting, the council discussed a report on the situation of judges in 1983. While discussing the report, the members of the council praised the role of judges and stressed the importance of paying more attention to the situation of the courts and judges in general, of bringing about speedy settlements of the cases referred to the courts, and of protecting and implementing the laws and legislation which concern the state. The council discussed the draft civil law and the draft consular law and approved them. The council elected a number of ministers who took the oath of office before the members of the Supreme People's Council. The council also elected judges to the Supreme Court of the republic. The council ratified the edicts of the presidium issued between the two sessions.

Press Statement

GF221737 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 May 84

["Text" of press statement issued at the conclusion of the 17th session of the Supreme People's Council]

[Excerpts] The Supreme People's Council held its 17th session from 21-22 May under Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The council reviewed the political, economic, and social developments and situation and the government's activities during the council's two sessions in the framework of carrying out the duties assigned to it in the current year.

The council paid great attention to the developments and dangers threatening the security of the countries and peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and Arab Gulf region as a result of the increasing aggressive activities of U.S. imperialism and from the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, its expansion, and impact. The council emphasized the correctness of our country's stand calling for the end of the Iraqi-Iranian war which heralds new threats to the region's peoples and does not serve the interests of the two neighboring peoples, and for the settlement of differences in a peaceful manner.

On the overall Arab situation, the council saluted the heroic steadfastness of our Palestinian people to face all the means of repression the Zionist enemy practices in the occupied Arab territories and the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Syrian peoples against the imperialist and Zionist challenges. It affirmed that preserving the PLO's unity is a guarantee for the continuation of the Palestinian struggle and that enhancing the Palestinian-Syrian national alliance and the Lebanese nationalist alliance is a basis for Arab steadfastness against imperialism and Zionism and toppling the Camp David accord. In this respect, the council expressed the hope that the current democratic meetings and dialogue among Palestinian brothers will yield positive results. It evaluated the efforts our country and fraternal Algeria have done in this connection.

The council condemned the acts of sabotage against the glorious 1 September Revolution and the plots to which this revolution is being subjected.

While reviewing the recent developments in Libya, the council affirmed that the Libyan people, who thwarted the recent sabotage plot, are able through their heroic steadfastness and support of forces of freedom and progress in the Arab world and on the international level, to continue their march to freedom against imperialism, and face all imperialist and reactionary plots.

Regarding the convocation of the Jewish community conference in Morocco at the invitation of the Moroccan regime, the council considered its convocation, which was attended by known Zionist personalities, as a point of convergence with Camp David and its subsequent stages. The council denounced the step the Moroccan regime made by hosting this conference which means it deals directly with the Zionist entity.

While reviewing the international situation and the threats endangering freedom and independence of a number of peoples resulting from imperialist threats against them, the council saluted the successes of the friendly Ethiopian people and their steadfastness against the plots aimed at obstructing their progress. The council renewed our country's stand in support for socialist Ethiopia in defense of its sovereignty and national achievements and in its struggle to build the new society. It also affirmed that the increasing number of tension points and threats against peoples in many places in the world means an increase in the aggressive tendency of imperialist circles. The council also saluted the struggle for freedom by Asian, African, and Latin American peoples and highly appreciated the stands of the friendly Soviet Union and the rest of the countries of the socialist bloc in support of the struggle of our Arab peoples and all peoples to preserve their freedom and independence. It expressed satisfaction over the mounting massive movement against war and the deployment of nuclear weapons. It expressed full support for the constructive peace initiatives by the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries and their efforts to limit the arms race and avert nuclear war and guarantee the establishment of world peace.

While concluding its 17th session by approving a number of draft laws and decrees by the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council between the two council sessions, the council calls on our people to have greater revolutionary awareness and continue the march to achieve the YSP's noble objectives in all fields. It also elected a number of ministers and judges for the republic's Supreme Court and approved the law on criminal measures and the consular law.

YSP Central Committee Issues Press Statement

GF211909 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 May 84

["Text" of press statement issued at the conclusion of the 12th regular session of the YSP Central Committee held from 13-20 May]

[Text] The YSP Central Committee held its 12th regular session between 13-20 May 1984 under the chairmanship of Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It dealt with a number of political, party, and economic issues, included in its work plan because of the need to continue to consolidate the revolutionary process led by our YSP to complete the tasks of the national democratic revolutionary stage characterized by socialist horizons.

The internal life of the party received much attention during this session. In this regard, the Central Committee studied comprehensively and in detail many issues concerning the development of the internal life of the party and solutions to the difficulties and shortcomings which hinder it. The Central Committee lauded the progress made in the party's social structure and expressed satisfaction with the increasing development of the awareness of the members and candidate members and their conscious discipline in their struggle for implementing the party class policy, for consolidating its ideological, political, and organizational unity, for augmenting its leading role in society, and for strengthening its links with the masses.

The Central Committee believes the increasingly vital tasks facing our party in the current situation charge the party organizations in the provinces and Armed Forces and in all labor, production, and study localities with great duties that demand further patient work in the field of reinforcing the class struggle spirit of the party members and deepening their link with the glorious revolutionary traditions of our party and our people and requires a state of high vigilance toward the various ideological, political, and economic subversion caused by the class enemies to weaken our revolutionary march and undermine the progressive gains achieved by our party and people through blood and great sacrifices. This session, the discussions, and the topics it dealt with represent a vital [word indistinct] in face of the party and economic situations and the internal and external factors affecting the course of the revolutionary process in our country under the leadership of our YSP.

The Central Committee calls on all the party members and candidate members to continue strengthening their struggle for the creative implemention of the party class policy, to maintain and develop our progressive achievements and a close link between practice and theory, to deepen links with the masses, and to respond decisively to all the negative practices, the presence and continuation of which are an insult to the principles of the party and its class struggling identity. The Central Committee found it necessary that the party and popular organizations exert further efforts to improve the methods for carrying out their work plans, increasing their effectiveness in the political and ideological education of the masses, increasing their contributions in developing the work of the executive organs and state institutions, and maintaining firm control over them. The Central Committee stressed the necessity of concentrating on the fulfillment of the tasks contained in the party's work plans, the popular organizations, and the state organs, foremost of which are plans of the fourth year of the second 5-year plan for economic and social development and the comprehensive campaign plan for illiteracy eradication. The fulfillment of these plans should constitute the main axes of party work among the ranks of the masses.

In this regard, the Central Committee studied the internal economic situation and examined augmenting the situation and role of the new economic forms in society. The Central Committee stressed paying attention to the continuation of the development of the state's conditions and cooperative sectors by creating favorable and increasing spheres for developing and increasing their effect in the economic and social life and by enabling them to play a leading and increasing role as they represent the pillars for development and socialism.

The Central Committee in this session also devoted much attention to the condition of supply, expressing its satisfaction with the stability of the supply situation. It stressed the importance of linking the supply plans with continuously increasing the proportion of essential supply products assigned to each individual to satisfy the needs of the citizens for products. In this regard, the Central Committee studied the situation of meat production. It stressed the necessity of improving the means of developing and marketing animal resources to increase the share of the local production for popular consumption of local fresh meats and poultry by encouraging the state institutions, cooperative sector, and individual citizens to breed, develop, and market animal resources through the marketing channels throughout the republic and to take measures to encourage livestock breeding.

The Central Committee has also taken necessary measures to raise the efficiency of the supply operation and to develop forms of supply by concentrating on strengthening consumer cooperatives and expanding them since they are the main form of state activity and retail trade, while paying particular attention to them by offering all forms of support to develop their position and to raise their operational efficiency.

While reviewing the domestic situation, the YSP Central Committee dealt with the progress of unity relations between the two parts of the homeland. It assessed the results of the meeting of the two leaders, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, during the second session of the Yemeni council in Aden at the end of last February. It stressed the necessity of continuing to strengthen joint unity efforts by agreed-upon measures and solving problems which obstruct expanding the bases of economic integration and trade exchange between the two parts, in such a way that would contribute to strengthening the peaceful trend to achieve the unity of the Yemeni territory and people and defend our sovereignty and independence.

The political developments of the Arab and international situations were given marked attention in this session. The YSP Central Committee discussed the increasing threats of the deteriorating situation in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Gulf as a result of the increasing activities of the imperialists in the waters and lands of some of the region's countries along with the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, which has reached a dangerous stage resulting in increasing losses which the two neighboring peoples in Iraq and Iran have suffered.

The YSP Central Committee stressed the PDRY will continue its principled policy and firm stands in support of the efforts aimed at ending the state of tension and instability which, if continued, will cause enormous damage to the vital interests of the peoples and the countries of the region as a whole.

The YSP Central Committee discussed the situation in the Arab arena in general and in the Palestinian arena in particular. It saluted the victory that the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces have achieved in annulling the 17 May agreement with the Zionist enemy and their success in forcing the U.S. forces to withdraw from Beirut thanks to the heroic struggle which the Lebanese people and its national forces undertook to deter the Israeli-U.S. occupation of Lebanese territory, to reunite Lebanon, and to protect its independence and its Arabism.

The YSP Central Committee saluted the steadfastness of Syria and its Armed Forces in the face of the hostile actions the U.S. forces carried out against the Syrian Army's positions in the Al-Biqa' region in Lebanon and its steadfastness in the face of various aggressive designs which Israel and the United States are plotting in order to weaken it and carry out their conspiratory plots in the Arab region. In this respect, the YSP Central Committee expressed its complete solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Syria and Lebanon against the dangers of the aggressive and expansionist Israeli policy with direct and overt support from the United States.

The YSP discussed the dangers that threaten the Palestinian cause as a result of the escalation of the plots aimed at aborting the Palestinian revolution and imposing liquidatory solutions on the Palestinian people through the Camp David accord, the Reagan initiative, and other initiatives hostile to the rights of the Palestinian people. This makes it necessary to continue bolstering the march of the steadfast Palestinian revolution by preserving national Palestinian unity and giving priority to the main conflict with the imperialist Zionist enemy as opposed to all secondary disputes among Palestinian revolution forces and to preserve the PLO's unity based on adherence to its basic political program and the resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC through the mobilization of all the energies and powers of the Palestinian revolution to continue the struggle for the Palestinian people's right to return to their country, determine their destiny, and establish their independent country. The YSP Central Committee expressed satisfaction over the results of the efforts our country and fraternal Algeria are making to maintain the PLO's unity and resolve the secondary differences among the Palestinian revolution factions. The Central Committee evaluated the results of the Aden and Algiers meetings among the Palestinian revolution factions and affirmed our party and country's determination to continue extending all forms of support and aid to the Palestinian revolution and making the greatest efforts for the preservation of its unity as the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

Studying the Arab situation, the Central Committee followed with great concern the escalation of the aggressive plots, to which the 1 September Revolution of the Libyan Jamahiriyah is being subjected. The Central Committee greeted the victory achieved by the Libyan people through their Armed Forces in foiling the subversive reactionary attempt aimed at undermining the stability of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and at ending its struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction. The Central Committee reaffirmed the solidarity of our party and country with the struggle of the Libyan people before various imperialist and reactionary designs to which they are subjected which represent one of the phases of the attack against the Arab national liberation movement.

The Central Committee believes the Arab national liberation movement can repel the attack against it and foil all the conspiracies hatched by the imperialist and Zionist forces by depending on the struggle capabilities and feelings of liberty of our Arab peoples and by consolidating the unity of the national and progressive Arab forces and by consolidating their struggle alliance with the Soviet Union and socialist countries and all forces of the world struggling for liberation, progress, and peace.

The Central Committee also followed with great concern the increasing conspiratorial movements against the Ethiopian revolution and its progressive struggle by the imperialist and reactionary forces which want to stop the progressive march of the Ethiopian revolution and hinder its progressive advance and the struggle of the Working People's Party and its allies. The Central Committee greeted the struggle of the Ethiopian people and their steadfast revolution and expressed satisfaction at the successes they are achieving in the various fronts of political, economic, military, and cultural construction. It reaffirmed the support of our country, party, and people for the Ethiopian people in their struggle for defending their revolution and their progressive regime and for maintaining and developing the achievements of the Ethiopian toilers.

Reviewing the developments of the international situation, the Central Committee expressed extreme concern over the escalation of military operations and over the conspiratorial political and expansionist designs by the international imperialist circles in order to undermine world peace and lead the world to a destructive nuclear war. In spite of the severe criticism, these circles strive to bring tension to the international situation, to intensify their moves against the socialist countries and the countries of the national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and to encourage and support the aggressive and expansionist policy pursued by their agents for the purpose of expanding and escalating local wars. All these plots are faced with wide resistance due to the internationalist principled policies pursued by the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries and the struggle waged by all the liberation, progressive, socialist, and peaceful forces in the world against the international imperialist system and against all factors of wars, oppression, backwardness, and exploitation.

The Central Committee highly assessed the results of the wise policy of the Soviet Union and socialist countries in building and consolidating the progressive socialism, and in protecting international peace and supporting the struggle of the world national liberation movement, which represents a major factor for ending the aggressive and expansionist tendency of the international imperialist forces and their reactionary, fascist, and racist allies.

At the end of its meetings the Central Committee elected the following comrades as full members of the Political Bureau: Anis Hasan Yahya; Salih Muslih Qasim; 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib; Salim Salih Muhammad; and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali.

Mubarak Receives Message From Indira Gandhi

NC231244 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, received the message today during a meeting with Indian Ambassador to Cairo Gonsalves. The message deals with India's reply to President Mubarak's message which outlined specific proposals on moves by the Nonaligned Movement to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. The message also includes Indira Gandhi's views of the current situation of the Iraq-Iran war and the nature of moves and efforts that the Nonaligned Movement may make to end this war and stop the deterioration in the Gulf.

Ghali Receives Lebanese President's Envoy

NC231230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received the Lebanese president's envoy, Samin Marun, who is currently visiting Cairo. Discussions during the meeting assessed the Middle East situation and the latest developments in the Lebanese situation following the formation of the national unity government under Rashid Karami and its assumption of responsibilities.

Supreme Court Passes Verdict on Boeing Deal

NC221555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) — The Supreme State Security Court convened today under Counselor Hakim Munir to look into the case of the Boeing aircraft deal. The court passed its verdict, acquitting Ahmad Nuh, former minister of civil aviation; Muhammad 'Abdallah Marzaban, former deputy prime minister and minister of economy and foreign trade; Muhammad Ahmad Bazir'ah, director general of planning for Egypt Air; and 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan Mahmud, chairman of Egypt Air's board of directors. According to the verdict, Muhammad Hasan Hilmi Shams ad-Din, former technical adviser to the minister of aviation, has been sentenced to 1 year imprisonment with a stay of execution.

AL-AKHBAR Attacks Sharon, Israeli Hawks

PM180955 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 May 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Israeli Hawks and History Lessons"]

[Text] Statements by Israeli officials daily confirm that they have lost all ability to learn the lessons of history and benefit from previous experience in order to rectify past mistakes and deal with the new reality in a practical manner that would spare the Israelis many difficulties and sufferings. Former Israeli defense minister and present minister of state, General Ariel Sharon, has stated that the Israeli invasion has ensured safety and security for thousands of Israelis and warned that Israel will "take all necessary steps" to ensure security in the area. In fact, Gen Sharon, who resigned his post as defense minister after it was established that he was involved in the Sabra and Shatila massacres against unarmed Palestinian refugees in Beirut, is still playing the same abhorrent Israeli tune which the world has rejected and was denounced by a large sector of the Israeli population: the tune of power and arrogance.

Gen Sharon regards the Israeli invasion of Lebanon as a heroic feat, although he admits that Israel paid a high price for it. He believes that the invasion of Lebanon has achieved security for the Israelis despite the many protest demonstrations in Tel Aviv denouncing the invasion and demanding withdrawal from Lebanon.

Obviously Sharon has not yet taken off his general's uniform, despite his resignation from the Defense Ministry. He is still threatening further massacres against unarmed people in Lebanon,saying that Israel will "take the necessary steps to ensure security in the area." Thus although the whole world believes that security for all the Middle East peoples can be achieved only through a just and comprehensive settlement, General Sharon is once again reiterating his adherence to an Israeli security theory that is worn out and has proved its failure. So the shouting by Sharon and the rest of the Israeli hawks cannot change the reality of things or prevent history from taking the correct course. The reasonable voices and movements supporting peace in Israel must resist these extremist ideas and stress to their proponents that all the Israeli aggressions have failed to ensure security for the Israelis, not only on the borders with Lebanon but also in the heart of Jerusalem itself.

MAY Views Israeli Campaign Against Country

PM181459 Cairo MAY in Arabic 16 May 84 p 2

[Lutfi 'Abd al-Qadir "Israeli Matters" column]

[Text] The direct aim of the Israeli campaign against Egypt is to push the U.S. Administration toward taking a decision to curb supplies of sophisticated arms to Egypt and check Egyptian development in the manufacture of modern weapons. Its aim is also to persuade the U.S. Administration of the need to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in the belief that this would encourage a large number of countries to do the same — which would convince the Arabs that the demand for Arab Jerusalem was hopeless.

The indirect aim is to lessen criticism directed at Yitzhaq Shamir's government by many sectors of the Israeli people, which blame the Likud bloc for allowing relations with Egypt to reach such a degree of stalemate and coolness — sectors that could vote against the Likud in the coming parliamentary elections in July. But what is causing concern to the Likud government is that its campaign has failed to bear fruit and scored no successes, because the United States is still opposed to moving its embassy to Jerusalem and did not respond to Shamir's attempts to object to Washington's decision to sell transport planes to the Egyptian Air Force. Nor did it respond to Israeli attempts to pressure Washington to reduce its economic aid to Egypt because of the deterioration in relations between Egypt and Israel.

With regard to Israeli public opinion, which is of primary concern to the Likud bloc because of the imminent elections, Shamir has been dismayed by the current visit to Cairo by the Peace Now movement and its expression of the hope during the visit that the elections will lead to the failure of the Likud bloc and the success of the Labor alignment. This has prompted the Naoz movement, which led a violent campaign against the withdrawal from Sinai, to address a message to Shamir, probably at his own request, describing the statement as naive. It said that these statements have caused serious damage to the state because they have given moral support to Egypt's hostile activities against Israel.

What has made things worse in the campaign, in which the Likud government is trying to blame Egypt for the stalemate and coolness in the peace with Israel, is the answer which Ezer Weizman, a former Israeli defense minister who is entering the elections at the head of a new independent list, gave to a question by the Israeli *HA'ARETZ* correspondent regarding his opinion on the unstable situation between Egypt and Israel in his capacity as one of the engineers of the peace agreement. His answer refuted all the allegations of Shamir's government and was contrary to all that Shamir said. He said: "We have probably put too much pressure on the Egyptians, and our dreams have not been achieved probably because of Israeli statements hostile to President Mubarak because of his return to the Arab world." He added: "I do not understand what the Israeli leaders want from him. Egypt is part of the Arab world. What do they expect from Egypt, which has led the Arab world for a long time? Instead of viewing Egypt as a window or door overlooking the Arab world, they view it as a state betraying us."

He said: "Egypt's dissatisfaction is due to two causes. The first is that Egypt expected the situation of the Arab inhabitants in the West Bank to improve after the peace treaty. But in Egypt's view the situation in the West Bank now is worse than before the peace agreement. The second reason is the Lebanon problem. Egypt says that it is illogical for Israel to wage a bloody war in Lebanon at a time when it was agreed that there would be no wars after today — the phrase which As-Sadat uttered after signing the peace agreement."

Just as Israeli public opinion rejected Shamir's allegations that Egypt is responsible for the state that peace in the Middle East has reached, U.S. public opinion, too, failed to respond to the Jewish lobby's campaign against Egypt and rejected its claim that Egypt's recent moves place it in the rank of the Arab rejectionist countries, that President Husni Mubarak's behavior is basically different from that of his predecessor President Anwar as-Sadat, and that Egypt's actions are contrary to the Camp David spirit. We believe the rejection Yitzhaq Shamir is facing in his campaign against Egypt constitutes the beginning of a development signaling the possibility of the moderates' defeating the extremists in Israeli society, now that it has been established that Israel has reaped nothing from the rule of the extremists except a crushing economic crisis, the blocking of the peace process, and anxiety for and disturbance to Israeli security. The future would bring a worse economic crisis and a return to wars instead of peace if the extremists took control of the government in Israel. The coming parliamentary elections are tantamount to a referendum on peace. Will the Israeli people pass the test?

TV Channel 2 To Transmit to 3 Governorates

NC231218 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] State Minister for Information Safwat ash-Sharif today announced that Egyptian television's Channel 2 will start full transmission to the governorates of Al-Bahr al-Ahmar, southern Sinai, and Al-Wadi al-Jadid as of today. The test transmission by Channel 2 to these governorates began some months ago for between 6 and 8 hours daily. Egyptian television congratulates the inhabitants of the governorates of Al-Bahr al-Ahmar, Al-Wadi al-Jadid, and southern Sinai on this occasion.

President on Khark Island Siege, New Weapons

JN231215 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 May 84

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on 23 May in Baghdad at a ceremony to bestow medals of courage on Iraqi fighters — recorded]

[Text] Greetings. Henceforth, whenever you have business with government departments you will wear your medals of courage so you will be distinguishable. The government departments already give special consideration to the men of the Armed Forces. You know that your people respect you for your sacrifices. Still, the distinguished fighters of the Armed Forces ought to be given special recognition when they have any business with government departments or when they are on any duty outside their units.

The men who are being honored today are from the Armed Forces — The Navy and its valiant air force, the Air Force, the Army Air Force, and the ground forces. The men from the ground forces and the Army Air Force have distinguished themselves in recent battles east of Basra, east of Tigris, and east of Maysan.

We have already spoken about your battles and given them the mention they deserve. At any rate, your heroism speaks for you. Those battles taught the enemy a hard lesson. In fact, they were the strongest blows to the enemy compared to all previous battles, as was obvious from the enormous losses sustained by the enemy. The enemy will not be brought to heel by one battle, but by a series of battles, and not by the willpower of one commander or soldier, but the willpower of all commanders and soldiers from the different formations. The battles were a bitter experience for the enemy — the suspect, crazy men in Qom and Tehran. This experience has, to a certain extent, brought them back to their senses. What is required now is more blows to bring them fully back to their senses, or to make their people rise against them and send them to hell. We are certain that one of these possibilities is bound to occur in the foreseeable future.

After their failure in recent battles, and in accordance with the latest information we have received — as you know, the world now condemns Iran's behavior and the Tehran regime's intransigence, the lines of communications between us and the world are wide open, and we also take great pride in the efforts of our intelligence organs — as I said, in accordance with the accurate information we have received we are fully aware of the enemy's intentions and preparations. The information available to us says that discussions are taking place and opinions are being voiced within the enemy command that is concerned with war operations.

Some say: We must go back to carrying out small operations spread out all along the front to exhaust the Iraqi Armed Forces. Others reply that a protracted war and the Iraqis' capabilities make these small attacks useless. They also say that the time factor is important for defining the results they want to obtain. They add: Therefore, we must limit the main directions and concentrate on them with all our capabilities. Others say: We must use both courses. We must engage the Iraqis in some marginal points that will precede the major action, or that will take place simultaneously with this action, and then we will carry out the major action.

In all cases, the results, God willing, will not change. These results are that your heads will remain raised; they will be defeated; and the suspect and arrogant leaders will sustain more dead bodies.

Your weapons are now stronger; your number is greater; your experience has been enhanced; and your morale is the same, if not greater than that with which you waged the recent battles.

Their only hope is to halt the war. Otherwise, they will be doomed, God willing. You are aware of the daring epics your courageous Air Force began to perform after the political leadership in the country exhausted all the means for having Iran desist from its course of aggression and avoid the path that will lead it astray.

When we used to announce that we will impose a real siege on Khark Island, they ridiculed us. Then the blows came to reawaken all those who were not fully awake or those who viewed matters with only one eye. The blows were destructive. They became demented and struck at some Arab oil tankers in the Gulf which belong to countries which are not at war with Iran. They believed that such behavior would extricate them from the dilemma. We would like to reaffirm to you, to the Iraqi people, and to all those who listen to us that we will not go back on our plan to tighten the siege on Khark Island and to strike at any tanker within the prohibited area, regardless of the loud and repeated cries for us to do so.

We tell those. who in their statements try to deal with Iraq and Iran equally by saying that Iraq and Iran should be rational and not attack oil tankers, that we are aware of these opportunist attempts and are aware of the meaning of this line of action within the context of the balance of powers in the world. We will behave toward this line in the manner it deserves both in our regional and international policy. However, will not go back on our policy and plans, God willing.

We have given many chances to all; the time has come for us to tighten the siege on the island. I say this to you; the day when we will possess weapons capable of destroying Khark Island itself, is coming closer. I would also like to tell you that the weapons we possess are only a sample of the weapons that we will receive.

These weapons will be more effective and more capable of teaching the enemy harsher lessons, and of destroying the corrupt leaders and the Iranian economy on the land, not just on Khark Island.

There is talk about possible U.S. interference in the Gulf region to assist our Arab brothers in confronting Iran. I affirm that the Arabs do not need such assistance. They have sufficient capability to crush the heads of aggression and sever the evil hands.

[Text] When Iran interferes in international waters and the freedom of navigation, it must remember that its interests are transported through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Under the collective Arab Defense Pact and considering Arab security — which calls for Arab solidarity — Egypt, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia can harass all Iranian oil tankers and merchant ships as well as all other ships that cooperate with Iran, whether in the Red Sea or the Suez Canal. Furthermore, the Arabs have unlimited power to deal fatal blows to the enemy and to its mercantile and naval fleets both in the Gulf region and in the Arabian Sea.

Therefore, no matter how much aid the United States gives, it will not be able to give more planes than the Iraqi Air Force can give. Just imagine if, at the request of our Gulf brothers, the Iraqi Air Force moved to any littoral Gulf state. What would become of Iran in the sea and on the shores? The effective weapons that Iraq and its brothers in the Gulf possess — there are effective weapons in Saudi Arabia, in Kuwait, and in the other Arab countries — are sufficient to destroy Iran and to make it kneel down if it continues with its aggression in the Arab Gulf region.

Aggressive, evil Iran does not have a bright future. There is nothing but darkness ahead for it. Therefore, it must reconsider its position. On the other hand, the horizon is wide open for your country. Nothing but prosperity, security, and stability await you when, God willing, you triumphantly end this war which was imposed on you.

You know that we have responded positively to all UN Security Council resolutions, especially to Resolution No 540 which is more in favor of Iran then Iraq. However, when the Security Council discusses this issue again, it must bear in mind that the circumstances in which Resolution No 540 was adopted are different from the circumstances today. Therefore, it must take Iraq's interests into full consideration. I believe Iraq has given ample opportunity to everyone, including the international organizations. When politics fail to safeguard dignity, security, and sovereignty, then logic says that Iraq must use its maximum power. So far, we have not used our maximum power in this particular field — the field of Iranian oil interests in the Gulf region.

Convey my greetings to your brothers. We are viewing the present victory and the greater victory as a tangible fact. We have unlimited confidence in the future, and in your resources and abilities to face the forces of darkness. Hail to the men. Your people hold you in the greatest esteem. You are most welcome.

Finance Minister: Khark Island Siege To Continue

AU231050 Vienna Television Service in German 2115 GMT 22 May 84

[Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq's interview with unidentified Austrian television reporter in Vienna on 22 May — recorded with Tawfiq answers in Arabic with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Reporter] Today finance ministers of the OPEC states gathered in Vienna discussed the future policy of the OPEC fund on granting loans and the amount of contributions of the member-countries. The problem in the negotiations is that the Gulf states are getting increasingly into economic difficulties because of the increasing interference in oil exports from the Gulf. Chiefly affected are the two warring, neighboring states — Iran and Iraq.

[Tawfiq] There is no doubt that the decrease in oil revenues has had a negative impact on Iraq's economic situation. But we are not afraid because we are able to adopt measures to create new sources of income; we have taken steps to find new routes for our oil exports.

[Reporter] What dangers does Iraq perceive in a possible blockade of the Strait of Hormuz? How great is the economic danger resulting from this for Iraq?

[Tawfiq] The Strait of Hormuz is very important for the Gulf states, but not so much for Iraq because we are no longer using the Gulf for our oil exports. A blockade would hit Iran most because all of its exports pass through the Gulf.

[Reporter] The war in the Gulf is first and foremost a war which is being waged by means of economic pressure on the adversary, for example, through Iraqi attacks against Khark Island. To what extent, in your opinion, are the warring states still in a position to withstand the economic pressure of the adversary?

[Tawfiq] Iran has rejected all proposals for peace plans. The damage has increased, particularly since the exacerbation of the situation in the past few days. We therefore feel justified in weakening the economic power of Iran and reducing its military efforts. We cannot export via the Gulf because Iran has bombed all of our outlets into that area. We therefore feel compelled to block Iran's oil shipments at Khark Island. In my opinion Iran cannot hold out economically much longer.

[Reporter] What possibilities do you see for a political detente in the Gulf?

[Tawfiq] The only solution consists in the world becoming aware of its responsiblity, taking economic sanctions against Iran, and stopping arms deliveries.

Daily Terms Gulf Events 'One War, Not Two'

JN230846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA) — An article published in *ATH-THAWRAH* here today warns against a suspect scheme to split the Iraqi-Iranian war into two separate wars.

Under the headline "One War, Not Two Wars," the article explains that some suspect voices are speaking about two wars — the oil tankers war and the Iraqi-Iranian war, or what some call the Gulf war.

The article adds: Since these voices are basically seeking to contain the tankers war, their attention is devoted to searching solely for a solution to this war, the prolongation or halting of which is not that important.

The article stresses that Iraq views the attempt to separate the tankers war and the Gulf war as a futile attempt that runs against the nature of things. The article also explains that the oil tankers war is only one of the many manifestations of the Gulf war and an extension of it, and that any attempt to divide this war into two wars will clash with the objective fact that it is one war and not two wars.

The article brings to mind what Iraq previously stated: That Khomeyniite Iran has designs not only on Iraq but also on the Arab Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, and the entire Arab homeland. The article adds that when Iran's aggression against Iraq failed, it tried its luck with the Arab Gulf countries and began carrying out blatant aggressions against these countries' interests.

The article says: An attempt to justify this escalation of the war by citing the Iraqi siege imposed on Khark Island and the other Iranian ports collapses when one recalls that Iran carried out aggressions against the Gulf countries even before the siege imposed on Khark. In this respect, the article reviews the hostile Iranian practices against Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

The article says that the Iranian aggression against the Arab countries' interests, security, and sovereignty is the same agression that the Iranian enemy is using against Iraq, even though the forms, means, and timing seem to be different. That's why any idea about a possible termination of the tankers war while the Gulf war continues will be futile, showing short-sightedness and malice.

The article adds that any attempt to treat the tankers war in isolation from the Gulf war will be illogical because the first is part of the second and an extension of it. Therefore, the only possible solution would be to end the war, and halt the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arab Gulf countries.

Concluding, the article says that those who believe that they can halt the tankers war while maintaining the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran will be disappointed, and will be committing a mistake. The reason is simple; this war is one war, and not two wars.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,473 - 22 May

JN221626 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 84

[Communique No 1,473 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The proud Iraqis are continuing their brave confrontation of the Iranian aggressors. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our valiant forward units opened fire on some enemy troops who tried to approach our them in the central sector of the battlefield, killing or wounding a number of the enemy and forcing the rest to retreat, and destroying four weapons emplacements, one hardware stockpile, and one observation post. Elsewhere in the same sector, fresh groups of Iranian military men, fleeing Khomeyni's unjust rule and the hegemony of his suspect clique, sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

2. One of our forward units pounded several enemy positions, assembly points, and engineering equipment in the operational area east of Basra with artillery and other weapons, killing three, wounding others, and destroying one infantry assembly point, one hardware stockpile, one vehicle, and one observation post.

3. Two were killed, others were wounded, and one vehicle and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the east Tigris operational sector.

4. Last night and today, the criminal clique ruling in Iran shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artillery, killing three civilians, wounding six others, and damaging two houses, one elementary school, and three civilian cars.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 May 1984

Minister Dismisses Israeli Hopes of Oil Purchases

JN221106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has described the Zionist minister of energy and infratructure, Yitzhaq Moda'i's, statements about the Zionist entity's desire to obtain oil from the Iraqi pipeline that will pass through Jordan as ridiculous and mere dreams.

In a statement to INA today, the Iraqi minister said: Everyone knows that Iraq is in a state of war with the Zionist entity, the Arabs' enemy, and that Iraq is the first to vehemently object to any economic or trade dealings between any Arab country and the Zionist entity.

In a lecture he delivered at the trade and industrial club in Tel Aviv yesterday, the Zionist minister said that Israel wishes to purchase some of the oil from the Iraqi pipeline that will pass through Jordan.

Military Spokesman on Demobilization of Officers

JN221542 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — It was announced here today that the officer doctors who graduated from the 29th, 30th, and 31st classes will be demobilized as of the first of next month. A military spokesman has told INA that this demobilization decision and the previous decision regarding the demobilization of reserves of all ranks who were born in 1949, prove that Iraq is confident of its strength, presence, and future, and that the Iraqi Army possesses capable and qualified cadres to wage the battle against the Iranian aggression until final victory.

Baghdad Reports Execution of Iranian Opponent

GF221505 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The Iranian regime and its henchmen continue their executions, assassinations, and mass liquidation against the elements of the factions of the Iranian opposition and resistance inside the prisons and detention centers which the regime have set up un Iran.

Reports from Iran, which were disclosed by Iranian opposition sources in Paris today, said that among those who were recently executed was Jalil Hajizadeh, who died after being tortured at the prison of the Khcmeyni guards in the city of Shiraz, southern Iran.

It should be noted that opponent Jalil, who was accused of being a member of Mojahedin-e Khalq, was arrested in 1981 and sentenced to five years imprisonment, but died weeks ago after being tortured at the prison; evidence of torture and mutilation were apparent on his body.

Briefs

Credentials of New Ambassadors — Baghdad, 22 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn this morning received the credentials of George Potuka, new Austrian ambassador to Iraq, and 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Bu'ayjan, Kuwaiti ambassador to Iraq. [Summary] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 May 84 JN]

King, Queen Return From Private Visit to Britain

JN221840 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned to the homeland this evening after a private visit of several days to the United Kingdom. Their majesties were received by his majesty's personal representative His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Her Highness Princess 'Aliyah.

Participating in the reception were the prime minister, the Senate and House of Representatives speakers, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the deputy prime minister, the ministers, the chief of staff, senior civilian and military officials, the British ambassador in Amman, and a number of ranking officials' wives. Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd returned with their majesties.

King Husayn Gives Interview to LE FIGARO

PM231105 Paris LE FIGARO in French 22 May 84 p 2

[Interview with King Husayn by Jean Francois-Poncet and Claude Lorieux in Amman; date not given]

[Text] The king: As you remember, the Reagan plan was published 1 September 1982. It aroused great hopes. We did everything to help. I even went to Washington in December 1982 and told the President what should be done if we wanted to succeed. [Husayn ends]

In the gloom of his square office, which is fairly small but very tasteful, the king described his hopes and disappointments for 2 hours. On the wall facing us were two pictures of old men with beards, wearing the Bedouin kaffih: his great grandfather Sherif Husayn, who was guardian of Mecca, and his grandfather 'Abdallah, king of Trans-Jordan, murdered by a Palestinian 30 years before As-Sadat for wanting, like him, coexistence between Jews and Arabs. Husayn, who was then 16, witnessed the scene.

"The Palestinians' self-determination," the king continued in his quiet voice, "had to be an established principle, and its implementation had to take place in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework and not concern anybody else.

"It was also necessary for the PLO and Jordan to be involved in the negotiations. I also warned President Reagan that we would make progress only if U.S. credibility in the Middle East were restored — first with regard to his own plan, since Israel, not content with rejecting it, was violating its principle — peace in exchange for territories — by increasing Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Second, with regard to Lebanon, from which it was vital that Israel withdraw at the same time as did all the foreign troops, we could not make ourselves clearer, and I repeated to President Reagan that he could not count on Jordan to go ahead alone against everybody, against Israel, the United States, the Soviet Union, the Palestinians, the Arab world..."

Jean Francois-Poncet: And how did Reagan react?

The king: The Americans encouraged us. They asked us to see if the PLO would agree to Jordan's negotiating on the Palestinians' behalf, on the understanding that Palestinians not belonging to the PLO but accepted by it would form part of the delegation. They expected our reply in March 1983, asserting that by that date the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon would be established.

Jean Francois-Poncet: But things did not go as you hoped?

The king: We set to work with the Arab countries and the PLO. Unfortunately, pressure was exerted both on the PLO and at the Arab summits. Since unanimity is the rule, a small minority can block everything. In addition, two countries actively tried to do so. And other obstacles quickly emerged to obstruct us. First, Lebanon: Instead of negotiating with all sides with a view to a simultaneous withdrawal, the United States opted for a separate agreement between Lebanon and Israel — an agreement which, without specifically saying so, is a veritable peace treaty. I immediately realized that Syria would reject it, and not without reason. It was a real tragedy. Lebanon's future now poses a serious problem. I hope the current efforts will succeed, but I fear that partition has already been accomplished. The Israelis had two objectives in mind: the avowed objective of expelling the PLO and the unavowed objective of controlling the sources of the Jordan. This has been done. I do not see how we can change that. [Husayn ends]

Without losing his smile, one of his "diplomatic weapons," the king then turned to a "matter" which very closely affects him: the West Bank. It was lost in 1967 during the 6-day war and is, so to speak, his Alsace-Lorraine [historica area of contention between France and Germany]. "The U.S. attitude toward Israeli settlements," he stressed, "was another major obstacle, because those settlements have not stopped. Moreover the (Arab) populations are now being transferred to the Jordan valley, as if to prepare for their future expulsion. The extension of Israeli real estate law to the occupied territories has been announced and this amounts to their annexation. That is why, when I went to Washington last year, I informed President Reagan of a draft Security Council resolution on this subject. I asked the United States to abstain, failing a vote in favor of that document. If we were to continue, we needed at least this 'moral verdict' from the international community, especially at a time when the U.S. elections made it impossible to hope for more from the United States.

"At the same time I personally insisted to Reagan that Israel stop opposing the West Bank Palestinians' participation in PLO deliberations. It was important that their voice — which is moderate — should be heard in PLO councils.

"One fine day I received two letters from President Reagan. They were two refusals."

Jean Francois-Poncet: But was it not a third U.S. refusal, the refusal to sell you Stinger air defense missiles, which sealed the break?

The king: Indeed, my cup was already full. I decided to react, to inform opinion, and at least to spark off a public debate in the

United States. I chose to do so before Congress voted on the Stinger missiles. I knew that we would be refused those missiles. But I did not want it to be possible for that refusal to be attributed to a stance which had an entirely different significance. Indeed, the root of the matter is that we cannot cooperate with the United States inasmuch as it has chosen its camp, acting as Israel's ally, abandoning its role of arbiter, and not keeping its word or its pledges. [Husayn ends]

It was late afternoon. Many birds were flying around and singing in the bushes and climbing plants which shaded the windows of the royal office. Outside 'Arafat was waiting to be received. The time had come to change the subject.

Jean Francois-Poncet: Israeli-Arab relations are only one aspect of the Middle East situation. The Iran-Iraq war is another, equally daunting aspect. You, more than anyone, have sided with Iraq. Why? You have even sent in troops...

The king: No, not troops, volunteers. I have many reasons. First, Arab solidarity. The defense pact which binds the Arab League members stipulates that an attack on one member state will be regarded as an attack on all. That is why Jordan went to war back in 1967. Second, Iraq has always stood by us and is an integral part of our strategic area. Moreover the Iranian province of Khuzestan was called Arabistan before being annexed by Iran in 1925. Furthermore, the very name of the Shatt al-Arab is no coincidence. Finally, the truth is that it was Iran's fault that the 1975 agreement between Baghdad and Tehran was not implemented, and Iran launched hostilities in Iraq well before war was declared. Indeed, Iran is persisting despite its huge human and material losses because it has one essential objective.

Jean Francois-Poncet: What objective?

The king: To divide the Shi'ites and the Sunnis. If it succeeded, Iran would not only have destroyed Iraq but undermined the balance of the whole region. The Gulf states are well aware of this. Iraq is fighting this threat. It was because it is the strongest Arab country that it was taken as the target. Thank God, Iraq has stood firm and will stand firm, because it is defending its soil and its unity. If, like us, all the Arab countries had formed a bloc, the war would have been over long ago.

Jean Francois-Poncet: Beyond the war itself, does not fundamentalism threaten all Arab regimes from within?

The king: Religious extremism is a reaction to the humiliation, frustration, and instability engendered by the conflict with Israel. Faith in itself is a good thing. It is a factor of cohesion and resistance for a people.

But when it is "manipulated" — as is clearly the case in Iran — it no longer has anything to do with religion and can become a danger.

Jean Francois-Poncet: Is it not possible to hope, at least, that fundamentalism will form a barrier to Marxist propaganda?

The king: Since it is manipulated from outside, it is not a barrier to anything. Moreover the manipulation is not one-way. For instance, what is the explanation for the fact that Israel is arming Iran? Afghanistan and the Islamic regions of the USSR are close. That may have given some people ideas.

Jean Francois-Poncet: In the recent elections in Jordan, the religious candidates won notable victories. Is this a sign that Jordan itself has not escaped contamination?

The king: I do not think so. Moreover, no candidate who had any links with foreign countries was elected. [Husayn ends]

Although he regarded the election results as "very encouraging," King Husayn is worried by what his brother and close aide Crown Prince Hasan calls "the demographic aggression." It consists of pushing the Palestinians toward Jordan, where they already form 60 percent of the population. Thus Israel's objective of making contemporary Jordan into the Palestine of the future would be achieved.

Jean Francois-Poncet: The Hashemite Kingdom's future is linked above all to the development of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Can I ask you whether you see any "way out" of the Middle East's problems? And, above all, after the setbacks suffered, do the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat still have the necessary independence and representative nature to speak for the Palestinian people?

The king: The PLO was mistreated in Lebanon. We were opposed to Syrian and Libyan attempts to dominate the PLO. The Palestinians' voice must remain free. We have always said this to 'Arafat, whom I will be receiving in a few minutes. His strength and raison d'etre lie in representing the Palestinians in the occupied territories. If 'Arafat stopped identifying personally with their cause, he would no longer represent much. In many circumstances in the past he has postponed decisions, but I think he must now choose.

Jean Francois-Poncet: The other partner is, of course, Israel. Would a Labor Party victory in the forthcoming elections open up new and more favorable prospects?

The king: The Labor Party was in power for many years and we failed to make peace, although it would have been infinitely easier at the time. For once, the opposition appears to be more moderate than the party in government. If it wins in an election in which foreign policy will play a bigger role than in the previous election, it will be an encouraging sign. But will there still be time?

Jean Francois-Poncet: What do you mean?

The king: The situation on the West Bank has changed so much that, whatever the situation after the elections, there is reason to fear that it will be too late. Even if a decision is taken to suspend the settlement process, that will still leave the Israeli populations which have been installed and the land which has been transferred to the Jewish colonies.

Jean Francois-Poncet: Can, and should, Europe play a role?

The king: Of course. It is even essential. Without the June 1980 Venice declaration the region would have been polarized between the Eastern bloc and the West. That would have been a terrible threat,not only for peace but for our freedom and even our identity. Europe maintained a degree of balance. We must stay in close contact with it. Its role is to say what is right, to defend principles, especially the one established by UN Resolution 242, which prohibits the acquisition of territories by force.

Jean Francois-Poncet: Whatever Europe does, the decision depends mainly on the United States. What hopes do you have for the November presidential elections?

The king: Reagan's two opponents are essentially on Israel's side. They want the U.S. Embassy to be transferred to Jerusalem. Incredible though it may seem, they have turned this into an election issue, whereas Jerusalem concerns not only Jordan, Israel, or the Arab world, but Christendom and the whole Muslim community. Such a transfer would make any relations with the United States impossible and would spark off terrible reactions. Reagan would be a lesser evil.

Jean Francois-Poncet: Does this pessimism lead you to hope for the Soviet Union's participation in negotiations between Israel and the Arabs and, if so, at what stage in those negotiations?

The king: There will be no solution without Soviet participation, and it would be preferable for the USSR to be present from the start. Indeed, the question is whether the United States will ever be able to have the neutrality which is appropriate for a superpower. The USSR would provide balance.

Jean Francois-Poncet: But are you not afraid that the USSR's military and diplomatic comeback in the Middle East may change the strategic balance and enable Moscow to extend its political influence in the region?

The king: If you are talking about the Israeli-Syrian military balance, I do not think so. Despite the Soviet missiles in Syria, Israel still has superiority over all the Arab countries. As for the Soviet units manning those new weapons, I do not see why Israel should be more intimidated than in the past. Take Lebanon: The two superpowers were involved there by using the adversaries as intermediaries. Israel did not hesitate. The USSR has always been politically present and will not allow itself to be excluded from a region close to its borders and in which it feels it has interests. I must add that it is not only a question of the USSR. I am convinced that there will be no solution without the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council alongside all the parties to the conflict. The ironic thing is that, when you tour the five capitals, you hear the same language: The solution lies in Resolution 242. So why not get to work and implement it?

Prince Hasan Receives Red Cross Delegations

JN201247 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning delegations representing the chairmen of the International Red Cross [IRC] committee in Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Denmark who are currently visting Jordan. His highness discussed with them ways of deepening relations between IRC committees in Scandinavian countries and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society. Prince Hasan explained the aims and interests of the international independent committee on humanitarian causes, which is chaired by his highness and which held its latest meetings in Tunis 2 weeks ago, particularly with regard to human rights, the use of children in wars, and the Israeli occupation authorities' violations against Arab citizens in occupied Arab territories. The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmad Abu Qurah, chairman of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

Benin Foreign Minister Concludes Visit 21 May

JN212133 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] Amman — Tiamiou Adjibabe, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Benin, left Amman this evening after a 3-day visit to Jordan.

Army Commander Meets Weinberger in Washington

JN221240 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Washington — Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, met in Washington today with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Jordan's military needs were discussed during the meeting. The talks were resumed later in a meeting of the joint Jordanian-U.S. military committee. The Jordanian side was headed by the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, while the U.S. side was headed by the U.S. defense secretary's assistant.

U.S. Reaction to 'Ayn al-Halwah Criticized

JN190806 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On Arab-U.S. relations, *AR-RA'Y* writes: As usual, U.S. reaction to the crimes Israel recently committed at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp is confined to showing deep concern and to hinting that Israel's destruction of property is considered a violation of the Geneva conventions. The U.S. reaction consisted of no more than urging all parties to stop actions that will exacerbate the situation.

This U.S. reaction, which even ignored mere lip-service denunciation or condemnation of Israeli crimes in the camp, shows that some interference led to postponing the UN Security Council session which was expected to be held yesterday to discuss these crimes. It is obvious that postponing the session until Monday aims at avoiding the discussion of the issue while it is still fresh — so that it can be discussed later after it cools off — and at giving Israel the time to evade the crimes it perpetrated in the camp.

Calling the UN Security Council will not please U.S. policy. This is not because this policy hesitates to provide Israel with support through the veto and through other diplomatic, political, economic, and military aid, but because it believes that this call will activate the international community against Israel's aggressive practices — a matter which U.S. policy rejects and avoids by all possible means.

AR-RA'Y continues: Thus, it is not unlikely that the U.S. veto will be hinted at in order to obstruct the UN Security Council meeting and prevent discussion of a draft resolution which will condemn Israel. Many people expect this U.S. trend in accordance with the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. In light of this expected outcome, which was repeated many times, Arabs must not pin their hopes on a mirage and must not waste time expecting a miracle to help U.S. policy regain its balance and save it from coupling with the Israeli aggressors. The Arabs must be brave and must reconsider the future of Arab-U.S. relations in light of U.S. practices toward their issues. *AR-RA'Y* concludes: It is time the intransigent and biased U.S. policy found the inevitable strong Arab reply, since this policy is one which has opted for this path and has preferred to bite friendly hands.

JORDAN TIMES Ponders Rumsfeld Resignation

JN221245 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Rumsfeld in Memory Lane"]

[Text] While White House chief of staff to President Gerald Ford and as U.S. secretary of defence in 1975 and 1976, Donald Rumsfeld developed and wrote a set of official rules for the benefit of administration officials and American politicians. One of these rules says: You cannot win unless you are on the ballot. On the ballot Mr Rumsfeld is not, so he has decided to quit. This is another U.S. special envoy for the Middle East who has gone down memory lane and nowhere else.

That Mr Rumsfeld should take and quit his job without leaving any detectable impact on the peace process in the Middle East is not in itself surprising to us. Probably his appointment came a little too late, or a bit too early, for the man to be able to achieve anything substantial. And it is quite possible that there actually was not anything for him to do in the first place. Nevertheless, the problem with U.S. policies in this region has never been tied with a man or an idea; and it should not be read in Mr Rumsfled's resignation that something is about to change in Washington. The policy there would continue to be aimless, except in its pro-Israel bias, of course.

What makes the news of yet another resignation by a presidential envoy newsy is not so much the event itself. Mr Reagan has had several envoys and all things are the same. It is worth stopping at and pondering. "The conflicts in (the Middle East) are deep seated," Mr Rumsfeld wrote to his president. "While a continuation of our steady efforts is vital, you have rightly identified the growth of state sponsored terrorism and the use of surrogates to mask accountability as profound threats to hopes for progress in the area," he said. "A broad public understanding of the nature and magnitude of these threats is necessary. Your efforts to make the world aware of and to develop effective policies for deterring such activities are important steps forward," the envoy continued.

But what he meant there is not exactly clear. Was Mr Rumsfeld in effect saying that the Palestinian problem could be tackled only after the U.S. has completely routed terrorism sponsored by states such as Libya, Iran, or even Syria? Or was he implying that the Arab-Israeli conflict would not be there if the Soviets did not want or were not involved in it? Or, alternatively, did the envoy mean to tell the president that his administration's preoccupation with combatting what it saw as Soviet and terrorist threats against the U.S. and the free world was too great for a man like Mr Rumsfeld to really concentrate on the real issues; and that whoever was resigned to accepting the president's policies on these issues might as well resign his job?

Not exactly a classical case in American politics this Rumself resignation. But it should tell us something. Perhaps it is another slide, or simply a new deterioration in America's handling of the Middle East. Perhaps it is just a grim reminder that all is not well in the overall search for peace.

Sentences Against 2 Collaborators Ratified

JN200827 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 May 84 pp 1, 20

[Text] The martial law administrator has ratified the martial court's sentence of 15 years imprisonment with hard labor on Ramadan 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman Abu Hadrus after he was convicted of communicating and collaborating with the Israeli enemy. The martial law administrator has also ratified the martial court's sentence of 15 years imprisonment with hard labor on Samir Muhammad Sa'id 'Akramah after he was convicted of the first charge against him and of the second charge of communicating and collaborating with the Israeli enemy through the agent Village Leagues.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Urges Conference on Mideast

JN201016 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Sharing in the Making of Peace," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: The current serious and accelerating developments in the Arab region, particularly the ugliest form of human oppression in our occupied holy land, would not have reached this bleak and horrifying stage had it not been for the astonishing Arab indifference which created a similar negative international stand on the protracted Middle East conflict, which was supposed to eliminate the tension that threatens the peace and safety of the entire world. The parties that stand to benefit from the continuation of the conflict and violence in the Middle East seek to achieve internal political gains which forced them, as was the case with the U.S. Administration, to retreat from their stands and commitment toward peace in the Middle East. This led to further complication of the existing political equation and increased tension in a manner that threatens to ignite the fourth serious explosion in the Middle East.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: This state of affairs did not stop at this point. The U.S. Administration's attempt at imposing exclusive solutions to the region's conflict led, through fluctuating and vague stands, to the hampering of any role by influential forces which can have an effective, positive role in the peace process in the region. In September 1981, King Husayn reiterated the idea of convening an international conference to submit a peaceful formula to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. He reaffirmed the importance of such a conference from the premise of many realistic convictions and, in light of the present situation as a result of Israel's aggressive policy, the excesses of the U.S. Administration, the collapse of the concept of individual solutions, and the absence of joint international efforts. An international conference, which would include all parties concerned with the issue of peace and security in this region, would place the issue within its correct context and natural place under the UN auspices and resolutions that are based on the principles of international law and human rights.

Thus, any disregard of the Palestinian issue and the role of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO will not achieve peace. This is because any solution that does not involve the participation of the Palestinian people and ignores the fact that the Palestinian issue is the central issue will merely be tackling the surface of this conflict without seriously diagnosing and tackling this disease that threatens the region and inflicts tragedies and setbacks on its peoples. *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* concludes: The continuation of the indifferent stand of the international forces on the region's developments will not serve would peace. On the contrary, by virtue of the intermingled international interests, whose means and frameworks have become diversified, the region has become a focus for international polarization and fertile land for developing conflicts. This makes it incumbent on the international community to seek peace in this region. Therefore, there is a need for an integrated international effort in which all parties take part, particularly the Palestinians, because they are the principal party to this issue.

AD-DUSTUR Urges International, European Role

JN201039 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 May 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "Adherence to Firm Principles," *AD-DUSTUR* says: His Majesty King Husayn has reaffirmed that the Jordanians and Palestinians who belong to one family are linked by a common destiny and bear a joint responsibility. Based on this firm fact and guided by its essence, the Jordanian-Palestinian joint efforts accelerated to find a unified formula which would constitute the basis for joint Arab action capable of liberating the land and rescuing the kinfolk from the oppression of the abhorrent Zionist occupation.

Though this joint formula has achieved many strides in the past few months toward bolstering the joint march, Israeli intransigence on the one hand, and excessive U.S. bias toward Israel on the other thwarted, in view of the divided Arab situation, any possibility of achieving any real progress toward just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AD-DUSTUR adds: While the ruling Likud party in Israel has continued the settlement policy and has rejected all international efforts and initiatives aimed at achieving any progress that would lessen the current tension, the United States has continued its unlimited support for Israel's expansionist policy and provided it with every means of aggression. The final outcome of this was at the expense of U.S. credibility in the Arab region.

Thus, from the premise of its firm adherence to the principles of international right and justice and the legitimacy of the United Nations and its resolutions on the Middle East, Jordan proposed the idea of an international conference for a just and comprehensive settlement in the region, in which all the parties that are directly involved in the crisis, along with the permanent member states at the Security Council, would take part. *AD-DUSTUR* concludes: The participation of the international community, particularly Western European countries, in achieving peace in the region has become a necessity imposed by the Middle East situation which is becoming more complicated and tense. Otherwise, the world will find itself once again faced with a long series of wars and crises which will affect the region and the world at large, particularly in light of the current international polarization in this region, which badly needs justice, peace, and development away from the woes of long years of wars, tension, and continuous crises.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on UN Effectiveness in Gulf

JN221112 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 22 May 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Before the UN Security Council"]

[Text] After the Arab League, and after the consultations on the necessary steps to be adopted, the GCC countries have placed the issue of the Iranian aggression on Arab oil tankers before the UN Security Council. The truth is, what the Security Council will find before it is this war which Iran has continued against Iraq for the past 4 years. The issue which is being presented now to the Security Council is no more than a new development of this war. Preventing the escalation of these developments calls for ending all acts of aggression in the Arab Gulf area. The Security Council has previously adopted a resolution calling for an end to all acts of aggression and war activities between Iraq and Iran. But what happened is that Iraq agreed to abid by the resolution and ordered its forces, on more than one occasion, to adhere to the cease-fire and not to open fire on the enemy except in self-defense.

The Iranian officials, who these days say that they will continue to attack Arab Gulf tankers, are repeating what they said when the Gulf issue was presented for discussion before the Security Council. They said that they would not abide by resolutions which would be passed by the Security Council. They carried out their warning and continued their aggression. Thus the war continued without the Security Council taking any action to enforce its resolution and end the aggression.

Today, the aggression is expanding and has taken a more dangerous and serious turn against peace in the area and the whole world. What do we expect from the Security Council when we present the case now as we did in the past when we presented many issues concerning Israeli aggression and lacked alternative solutions? The discussion of the Arab foreign ministers did not indicate that a big change has taken place or that the stand that faces our nation in the Arab Gulf is different from what it faced in Palestine or Lebanon. We hope that the day will never come when we will have to mention the names of other Arab countries beside Palestine and Lebanon. This is how sad the reality is. The Gulf countries should have been strong enough before going to the Arab League, because their strength is necessary in order to successfully influence the Arab League stand.

The Arab League should also be strong enough to be able to influence the Security Council. Otherwise all our activities will be revolving in a vicious circle.

Cabinet Discusses Army, Exports to Saudi Arabia

NC231113 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The Cabinet session, which began at 1040 this morning, ended at 1300. The first to leave the session were Ministers Junblatt, 'Usayran, and Skaf. Prime Minister Karami and Ministers al-Huss, al-Jumayyil, Sham'un, and Birri are still meeting. The preliminary reports about the session indicate that the discussions dealt with the question of the Army. This question has been put on the shelf until the completion of the discussions. The discussions also dealt with the Saudi decision to stop importing products from the south.

PSP Radio Says Al-Jumayyil To Visit U.S. in June

NC221723 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] The press news agency has reported that President Amin al-Jumayyil will visit the U.S. capital next month, and that during the visit he will meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The political sources have affirmed that the date of the visit, its political dossier [mabaf] and even its military dossier were discussed during the preliminary talks undertaken in Lebanon by the U.S. Ambassador, and in Washington by former minister Dr Elie Salim. The press news agency has disclosed that the official sources in B'abda Palace have refrained from giving any information about the visit and its aims.

Commentary on Planned Visit

GF212028 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 20 May 84 pp 1, 21

[Muhammad 'Anan dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpts] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that the visit of Elie Salim, former foreign minister and current adviser to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, to Washington is aimed at preparing for the visit President al-Jumayyil will pay to the United States, in addition to Washington's mediation mission with Israel to implement the security measures in southern Lebanon. The U.S. Embassy in Beirut implied that this visit is proof that the U.S. policy has not failed in Lebanon and that the Marines' withdrawal from Beirut was a military move and not a political one. The date of this visit will be fixed in June.

AS-SIYASAH has learned that Al-Jumayyil's visit will be exploited on the level of the presidential elections in the United States in order to convince the Americans who criticized Reagan's policy in Lebanon, that the Marine's withdrawal from Lebanon was tactical, not strategic, and that the U.S. policy in Lebanon has not failed.

Pierre al-Jumayyil, minister of health and communications, told *AS-SIYASAH* that the government ministers agree on the importance of the existence of legitimate deterrent forces to impose the security over all of Lebanon.

AS-SIYASAH has learned that 30,000 Syrian soldiers are ready to respond to Karami government's demand — after it receives parliament's vote of confidence — to enter Lebanon as deterrent forces to stop the fighting and collect weapons in the tense regions which are not under Israeli occupation.

Foreign Ministry Agrees to UN Middle East Conference

NC211714 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today cabled the head of Lebanon's UN permanent mission Lebanon's reply to the invitation addressed by the UN secretary general to Lebanon to attend the international conference on the Middle East question — the conference the UN secretary general called for to be convened under UN auspices.

Among the most important points on which Lebanon's reply to the UN secretary general's invitation was based were the following: that Lebanon, out of its belief in the UN Charter, has always called for solving international problems by peaceful means and for respecting the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council; within this framework Lebanon has voted on all the resolutions pertaining to the Middle East crisis; Lebanon believes in the principle of respecting peoples' rights and on this basis supports granting the Palestinian people the right to self-determination without which there will be no peace in the Middle East.

The Lebanese reply also referred to the Lebanese Government's approval of the UN secretary general's invitation to participate in an international conference for solving the Middle East problem. The reply affirms that Lebanon considers the armistice agreement concluded in 1949 to be the legal text that controls Lebanese-Israeli relations. This was confirmed by the numerous Security Council resolutions including Resolutions 450 and 459.

Karami Reviews Developments With U.S. Ambassador

NC211815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami continued his contacts and consultations this afternoon. He met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew at 1700. They reviewed the current developments in Lebanon and in the region.

Karami, Marun Discuss Saudi Ban on Imports

NC211737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who arrived at the Government House at 1115 today, met with Sami Marun, chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Council. Marun said later that the discussions dealt with the recent Saudi decision to stop importing products from south Lebanon and with the possibilities of dealing with this decision. Marun said he and Prime Minister Karami agreed to deal with this decision as soon as possible. He expressed confidence that this decision will be dealt with in the very near future. Marun said: We hope that very soon we will be able to differentiate between Lebanese and non-Lebanese products. We have sufficient means to give guarantees to any state that the commodities they import are Lebanese.

Saudi Authorities on New Arrangements

NC221644 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today continued to show interest in the Saudi decision banning imports from south Lebanon. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, this morning contacted Lebanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Zafir al-Hasan, who briefed him on the official information he obtained after contacting Saudi officials, especially the Saudi trade minister and the customs director, on the decision banning the import of products from south Lebanon.

The Lebanese ambassador in Jidda said that no new arrangements have been made in Saudi Arabia regarding the principle of importing or not importing commodities from south Lebanon. The ambassador pointed out that some commodities were stopped at the Saudi borders for public health reasons. He added that new arrangements are now being studied by the Saudi authorities. The aim of these arrangements is the sound application of the measures related to importing commodities. The Lebanese ambassador said he is continuing his contacts with Saudi officials and that he will keep the government informed about this subject.

The acting Foreign Ministry secretary general then contacted the prime minister, in the latter's capacity as foreign minister, and briefed him on the information he received from the Lebanese ambassador in Jidda.

Marun to Egypt, Saudi Arabia

NC221840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, has expressed his hope that Saudi Arabia will retract its decision to ban the import of products from south Lebanon. He said this matter affects the national affairs, Arab security, and higher Arab interests irrespecitve of any other consideration. This Saudi decision, which has received the attention of governmental and economic circles in the country, will be taken up with the Saudi officials later this week by Sami Marun, chairman of the national council for foreign relations.

Marun left for Cairo today for this purpose. He will meet with Dr Mustafa Kamil Ibrahim, Egyptian economy minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. From Cairo, Marun will go to Saudi Arabia tomorrow to meet with the Saudi minister of economy and trade to discuss the Saudi decision banning the import of products from south Lebanon.

Birri Raps Arrests in South, Backs Sham'un Bill

NC221612 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, denounced the practices and arrests that have continued in the town of Mashgharah for a week. Approximately 35 people have so far been arrested from the town and taken to Marj 'Uyun. In addition, places of worship have been desecrated and many men of religion have been tortured.

It was learned that Minister Birri held contacts with international organizations and asked that the detainees be visited. He also asked Minister Joseph Skaf to intercede with certain officials to release detainees. He also held several contacts with Al-Biqa' officials to prevent any reaction to these actions. He warned of the gravity and escalation of the plot. He called for maximum self-restraint to foil the plot.

Asked about his stand on the defense bill submitted by [former] President Sham'un, Birri said: I agree with this bill and view it as a suitable foundation for a defense law for the future Lebanese Army.

Skaf Meets With Franjiyah Meeting, Makes Statement

NC221508 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah today discussed political developments with his visitors, particularly the forthcoming stage. He received Information Minister Joseph Skaf in the presence of Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi; Alfred Skaf, head of the Zahlah Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Fu'ad Sawaya.

Following the meeting, Minister Skaf made a statement in which he said: I had the honor to visit President Franjiyah's palace, the home of the nation, and to discuss several issues, including current issues, the Cabinet, and the vote of confidence. President Franjiyah has wise views and opinions, of which we are proud. He is confident that Lebanon will emerge from its ordeal. We share his views.

Replying to a question on security and the cease-fire violations, the information minister said: The Cabinet has so far held five meetings and studied security issues. I maintain that security requires a deterrent. We are now considering the possibility of making the Army a deterrent force after amending Decree 102 and forming a military council.

On unifying the media, the information minister said information is linked to security. As long as there are two sectors of Beirut, the media will remain as it is. When Beirut is united, the media will be united.

Trade Union Delegation Leaves for Moscow 20 May

NC211000 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A delegation of the National Trade Unions Federation headed by Ilyas al-Habir left yesterday for Moscow in response to an invitation from the Soviet Trade Unions Central Council. The delegation is also scheduled to visit Czechoslovakia and the GDR in response to a similar invitation.

During the tour the delegation will discuss the Lebanese question, the workers' struggle, and the struggle of the Lebanese people for the liberation of the south and western Al-Biqa' from the Zionist occupation. The tour will also reaffirm the solidarity of the trade unions of these countries with the Lebanese workers and people.

Port Official Denies Israel Diverting Al-Litani Waters

NC211228 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction and minister of water and electrical resources and justice, received today at 1030 Henry Far'un, chairman of the board of directors of Beirut port. They discussed the situation at the port during their 1-hour meeting, and afterwards the following dialogue took place with Mr Far'un:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Since the discussion dealt with the port issue, did His Excellency Minister Birri ask you to take a specific action, such as reopening the port?

[Far'un] With regard to the port's reopening, I have been demanding that this step be taken even before the reopening of the airport, because the reopening of the port will be easier to accomplish. We discussed this issue, and his excellency the minister will look into all of these things. I hope that permission will be given soon to reopen the port. [end recording]

Minister Birri then received Iskandar Ziyadah, director general of the Al-Litani waters authority, and discussed with him the situation of the authority in general.

Asked whether the discussion dealt with Israel's diversion of the Al-Litani waters, Mr Ziyadah said: Naturally the subject was raised, but nothing can now be said about this matter, because in fact we have no proof that the Al-Litani River waters have been diverted.

Asked about his expectations regarding work on the project, particularly since the area is under Israeli occupation, he said: The Israeli occupation does not allow the Israelis to easily divert the Al-Litani waters. This matter is too difficult. I can tell you that no diversion of the Al-Litani river waters is currently taking place.

Reportage on Security Situation, New Cease-Fire

Cease-Fire Arranged

NC221958 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The security situation was exacerbated this evening following the exchange of fire during the day on certain contact lines in the capital and the southern suburb. It was reported a short while ago that the situation has become aggravated in the Primo, Sodeco, Al-Barjawi, At-Tayyunah, Jisr Fu'ad Shihab, and Al-'Antabli contact lines in the capital, as well as on the Ash-Shuwayfat, Kafr Shima, Sciences College, Al-Laylakah, Saqiy al-Hadath contact lines. It has also been reported that shells landed on these areas. The number of casualties has not yet been determined. The security arrangements committee is now handling this aggravated situation on various levels and is conducting painstaking contacts to control the situation and make the parties concerned observe the cease-fire. It has been learned that the security committee has reached an agreement according to which a cease-fire will go into effect at 2135.

Shelling Eases in Ash-Shuwayfat

NC221937 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] At 2120 tonight and following violent shelling of the township of Ash-Shuwayfat and its environs, the factional army attempted to advance from Kafr Shima in the direction of Ash-Shuwayfat.

The quadripartite security committee has fixed 2130 as the time the cease-fire comes into force. However, to this hour the Army units and the Phalange militias have not adhered to the security agreement; mortar shells are still falling in the Ash-Shuwayfat area, and the clashes extended to the capital particularly the Primo, Sodeco, Markets, Al-Barjawi, and At-Tayyunah areas. At 2140 a shell fell in the Ra's Bayrut area wounding a number of citizens. Moreover, there was sniper fire in the city center from the lottery and the [word indistinct] wireless buildings. Ten minutes ago we learned that the artillery shelling eased in the Ash-Shuwayfat area while bursts of gunfire are still being fired in the (?Al-Banna) areas.

Explosions Heard Throughout Capitol

NC222152 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2147 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A third cease-fire agreement was declared at 0030 following the flareup involving the various contact lines in the capital. The clashes, in which artillery and rockets are being used, are now taking place on the Sodeco, Primo, and Bisharah al-Kuri contact lines. Violent clashes raged on the Al-'Ayzariyah contact line. An exchange of medium- and light-caliber weapons fire is now taking place in the port area. Despite the cease-fire announcement, explosions are still being heard throughout the capital.

Shelling Causes Many Casualties

NC230536 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 23 May 84

[Excerpts] Guarded calm prevails in all areas in Beirut and its southern suburb following violent clashes which continued until dawn today. At 0230 this morning, the hotels area came under intermittent shelling for approximately 1/2 hour. Shells landed in the sea opposite the U.S. Embassy in Al-Manarah. The clashes abated gradually and became intermittent at approximately 0300 this morning. The sound of explosions was still heard at 0530 today. They were accompanied by intermittent machine gun fire. According to security reports, several persons were killed and many others were wounded as a result of the random shelling.

Calm Prevails in Beirut, Suburb

NC231032 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Calm continues to prevail in the various areas of the capital and the [southern] suburb, with the exception of some intermittent sniper fire in the Markets and Al-Amirikin areas. The Security Arrangements Committee held a short meeting. Its members then left for the Al-Ma'rufiyah-Bsaba-Ash-Shuwayfat-Akfar Shima contact line on an inspection tour in order to study the possibility of expanding the area of disengagement between the gunmen and to locate a new post for the French observers there.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Advocates Deterrent Force

NC211749 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Minister Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil at noon today chaired a joint meeting of the Phalange Party Political Bureau and Central Council. The discussions dealt with the opening of schools, the security situation, the state of affairs of the government, the government policy statement, and the results of the Bikfayya meeting between Minister Walid Junblatt and Lebanese forces Commander Fadi Afram.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister al-Jumayyil said that no country in the world can bear to live without security forces that constitute a deterrent force. He said that what is happening in Lebanon falls into the category of a subversive war. He added: Nothing can save Lebanon from such a situation other than a Lebanese deterrent force, now that all past experiments have failed. Despite everything, he said, the Lebanese Army remains the best instrument for establishing security.

Minister al-Jumayyil regarded the present phase as one of the most dangerous phases the country has experienced. However, he said, the salvation of the experiment of Lebanon as the homeland of liberties is still possible and within reach. He again advocated self-reliance and expressed hope that the new government would be a starting point for restoring Lebanon's civilized role. He also expressed his hope that the government policy statement will be compatible with the Lebanese people's aspirations and everybody's wishes.

Afram, Junblatt Meet To Discuss Security Situation

NC191634 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram today met with Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] at the lunch table of President Amin al-Jumayyil. This was their first face-to-face meeting following several previous contacts held through third parties which dealt with security issues. The meeting was attended by Eli Hubayqah, head of the Lebanese Forces security and intelligence department; Akram Shuhayyib, a PSP official; Colonel Simon Qassis, Lebanese Army chief of intelligence; Joseph al-Hashim, head of the Ash-Shuf Phalangist bureau; and former Minister Khalid Junblatt. It has been learned that the talks dealt with the situation in general and the security situation in the mountain and Beirut in particular with a view to stabilizing the cease-fire and to calming the situation in all areas.

RFL Reaction to Meeting Reports

NC211136 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Reacting to certain news agencies' questions regarding media reports about the formation of committees as a result of the meeting between Engineer Fadi Afram, commander of the Lebanese Forces, and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces said: It is true that the meeting was positive and was characterized by frankness, and that the talks dealt with the Christian-Druze relations; however, no specific committees have yet been established. Should such committees be formed in the future, they will not be like those that have been reported by the media.

PSP Source Comment

NC211818 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has dismissed reports on the formation of a security political committee comprising the PSP and the Lebanese Forces during the meeting that was held last Saturday between Minister Walid Junblatt and Fadi Afram. The source said that the meeting was held solely to discuss ways to control the security situation, reopen the crossing points, and return life to normal.

Junblatt Receives Communist Party Delegation

NC211239 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transport and tourism, today at 1200 received at his house in Beirut George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party and a delegation of the party leadership. Following the meeting Hawi said: We came to congratulate Walid Junblatt on the occasion of the formation of the new government. We consider it a step on the path of the struggle until the liberation of the country from Israeli occupation is completed, sectarian hegemony removed, and the restoration of independence and unity of the land, people and institutions guaranteed on the basis of democratic nonsectarian reform.

Junblatt Discusses Situation With U.S. Ambassador

NC221203 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transport, and tourism, today recieved U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew. They discussed the latest developments in the wake of the Cabinet formation and the endorsement of the government's policy statement.

Amal, PSP, Al-Murabitun Coordinate Stands

NC211830 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The security liaison committee made up of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], the Amal Movement, and the Al-Murabitun met at the mufti's office this afternoon. The committee reviewed Beirut security matters. An atmosphere of understanding and coordination prevailed during the meeting in service of the Beirut inhabitants' security. The conferees agreed to resume contacts and to coordinate efforts among the concerned forces in order to consolidate the unity of Muslim and national ranks in Beirut and in the other Lebanese areas.

President's Photograph Missing From Some Offices

NC211200 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] It has been noticed that the president's official photograph has disappeared from the offices of some ministers in the Karami government. Official quarters said that this matter will be raised soon with the ministers concerned to draw their attention to the need to adhere to traditions and practices. The same quarters wonder whether the offices of these ministers have been transformed into party offices.

Communists Urge Vigilance Against Israeli Plans

NC211317 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A statement by the Communist Action Organization in Lebanon has called for confronting the dangers to the Lebanese national question and Lebanon's internal crisis. It also called for vigilance and the mobilization of the Lebanese and Arab potentials and resources in order to guarantee the required steadfastness against the Israeli aggression and the possibilities of war. The drums of this war are being beaten by the Tel Aviv rulers particularly after yesterday's — Sunday's — air raid that the enemy air force carried out in the Al-Biqa'. This raid once again revealed the hostile plan being implemented by Israel against the nationalists in Lebanon and in the Arab world.

PRC Envoy Confers With PSP Leaders 22 May

NC221337 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] PRC Ambassador Yu Mengxin has visited the headquarters of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] where he exchanged views with PSP General Secretary Fu'ad Salman and Dr Khalil Ahmad Khalil on relations between the PSP and PRC Communist Party. They reviewed all aspects and causes of the Lebanese crisis and the PRC ambassador expressed support for the PSP's views on the Lebanese situation. He also stressed the need to liberate Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation and to restablish security and calm in Lebanon. He extended an invitation to the PSP leadership to visit the PRC.

Iranians Said To Urge Revolt Against Arab Rulers

NC210815 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Information available to the Voice of Lebanon discloses that the Iranians [in Lebanon] have recorded revolutionary Khomeyniite songs and inciteful slogans against the Arab rulers on cassettes of which some 100,000 have already been distributed. These songs also call on the people to revolt against those labeled as reactionaries and agents.

VOL Says Syrians Moving Artillery to Al-Biqa'

NC212035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the north reports that seven Syrian military trucks were seen about 15 minutes ago towing artillery and crossing the northern mountains toward the Al-Biqa' area.

Secret Pro-Syrian Organization Formed in Beirut

NC221625 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpts] A pro-Syrian secret organization named TTS [not further expanded] has been formed. Its duty will be to curb the movements of the various organizations in accordance with Syria's interest. In the St Simon and Sultan Ibrahim areas of Beirut some Palestinians were seen digging trenches and setting up barricades. Some military trucks have also unloaded weapons and ammunition, including rocket launchers and guns, in the Palestinians' positions.

RFL Reports Syrian Military Activities in Al-Biqa'

NC230557 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The Syrians have redeployed their forces in Al-Biqa'. They thinned out their [military] presence near the railroad in Riyaq, while they reinforced their troops in the positions located in [words indistinct] western Al-Biqa'. Furthermore, the Syrian forces pitched tents and set up antiaircraft batteries in the woods situated between Ta'nayil and Barr Ilyas. The Syrian forces also established new roadblocks on the Shtawrah-Al-Marj road. Syrian armor — consisting of T-54 and T-55 tanks and [armored] personnel carriers — was sighted on the Dhuannun road on its way to Shtawrah, Al-Murayjat, and Dahr al-Baydar. A rotation of troops has been going on since this morning in the Syrian brigade stationed in the Riyaq area. Syrian security organs have ordered Iranian and Syrian personnel present in the Al-Biqa' area to leave Lebanon no later than 6 June. Otherwise, they will have to join the Amal Movement.

Southern Governor To Leave for Sidon 21 May

JN210743 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Governor of Southern Lebanon Halim Fayyad and four heads of government departments will leave for southern Lebanon today to take up their duties in the government offices in Sidon. It is worth noting that the situation in southern Lebanon was one of the main topics discussed in Beirut yesterday by Interior Minister Jean Skaf and Halim Fayyad. Fayyad affirmed that at Minister Skaf's request he will leave for Sidon today to take up his duties in the Lebanese government offices.

IDF Convoy Attacked in Sidon; Civilians Wounded

NC221129 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] At approximately 1145 today Lebanese national resistance fighters attacked an Israeli convoy traveling on Riyad as-Sulh Street in Sidon near the Shahrazad movie theater. Mechanized Israeli reinforcements arrived on the scene and took up positions at the crossroads. The Israeli forces commenced searching the area and checking the people's identity. A source at Sidon's Hammud Hospital reported that three citizens were brought to the hospital for treatment of minor wounds sustained after being hit by shrapnel.

Jundallah Reportedly Behind Anti-Israeli Operations

NC210818 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Information available to us states that the Israeli forces have recently arrested a number of Jundallah members. In the ensuing investigations the Jundallah men admitted that they had masterminded a number of operations against the Israelis, and that they had been trained in terrorist acts at the Janta camp in the Ba'labakk District.

VOL on Israeli Military Moves; Hezbollah Activity

NC221308 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that movements of Israeli armored vehicles can be observed along the eastern line in western Al-Biqa'. Heavy artillery is also being brought into the area. Israeli helicopters are providing continuous escort. The competent quarters have received information stating that 400 men belonging to the Islamic Amal and Hezbollah, as well as some Iranian revolutionary guards, arrived yesterday in Tripoli in 20 trucks by way of the (Sunaydiq) access in 'Akkar. They raised flags of the Islamic revolution and shouted pro-Khomeyni slogans. They were received in Tripoli by members of the [Islamic] Unification Movement.

Tripoli quarters have expressed fears over the influx there of gunmen from Ba'labakk, particularly because these aliens have started to look for residences in the At-Tall area. That area is now witnessing an exodus of citizens to other areas in the north.

Reports have disclosed that the Israeli [air] raid that took place over the Janta area was intended for a Hezbollah festival which was to mark the graduation of a group of Hezbollah combatants. However, the raid occurred 1 hour earlier than the scheduled beginning of the festival.

Israeli Convoy Crosses Al-Awwali Bridge

NC230736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Eleven Israeli vehicles crossed the Al-Awwali bridge at 0915 today and headed toward Iqlim al-Kharrub. The convoy is comprised of two Merkava tanks and nine vehicles. At 0905, two Israeli fighter planes broke the sound barrier in the Al-Biqa' area.

RFL Reports Israeli Shelling of Syrian Positions

NC230758 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] At 0900 today Israeli forces stationed in Kifrayya began a concerted shelling of Syrian positions in At-Tall al-Akhdar [in Al-Biqa']. The shelling continued until 1015 at the rate of one round every 7 minutes. During the shelling, Israeli aircraft flew overhead, breaking the sound barrier.

British Nationals To Move to Embassy Premises

NC190707 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Security sources say the British Embassy has asked British nationals in Beirut to move to the Embassy premises in Corniche al-Manarah on a 4-day temporary basis. The measure, which went into effect yesterday, covers all British nationals who live in hotels and houses near the Embassy. The security sources gave no explanation for the measure.

Khaddam To Convey Message on Gulf to Khamene'i

JN231126 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tehran — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will deliver a message to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i from President Hafiz al-Asad. The message deals with the current state of tension in the Gulf. Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' left for Tehran this morning.

Spokesman Denies Change in Gulf War Stance

GF221919 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 22 May 84 pp 1, 16

[Exclusive report from Damascus]

[Text] A Syrian spokesman has denied that Syria's approval of the Arab foreign ministers decision to denounce the shelling of Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers by Iranian aircraft in the Gulf waters is a new strategy in Syrian policy or a change in Syria's stance toward the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The spokesman said that Syria's stance at the recent foreign ministers conference is regarded a continuation of Syria's firm policy of denouncing and condemning the war which was launched by Iraq against Iran. It opposes the expansion of the war and any aggression against the Gulf countries which are not participating in the war. And thus, Syria opposes any shelling of oil tankers which travel the Gulf waters.

The Syrian spokesman recalled the previous Syrian statements that regard any aggression against the Gulf countries, which are not participating in the war, as aggression against Syria.

Dailies on Gulf Situation, Syrian Mediation

JN230933 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 23 May 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Serious Dimensions of the U.S. Move in the Arab Gulf," *AL-BA'TH* says: NATO has formed a new military high command whose task, according to NATO Commander Bernard Rogers, is to direct military operations in the Arab Gulf region. That command, if the need arises, can use the previously formed Rapid Deployment Forces which are in many areas of our Arab homeland, the Indian Ocean, and some African countries.

This command was formed in the wake of a series of consutlations between Washington and some countries in the region. It is clear that the objective of this intensified U.S.-NATO move is to exacerbate the situation in order tocreate the proper atmosphere for a widespread U.S. return to our region.

AL-BA'TH adds: There is some proof that the Reagan administration has proposed some options to the region's states. These options are represented either by having these states in the region directly enter the existing military conflict between Iraq and Iran, or by securing all the circumstances for the U.S. forces to interfere in order to decide the situation. In both cases, this means the United States is attempting to involve the Arab nation in a conflict which is basically against the Arab nation's aspirations — a conflict that serves not the Arab nation's objectives but the objectives of the imperialist and Zionist forces, particularly the United States and Israel.

Concluding, *AL-BA'TH* says: Regardless of the Reagan administration's justifications, the new U.S. move in the gulf cannot be separated from Israel's provocations and the mobilization of its forces at the contact lines with the Syrian forces in Lebanon. Moreover, the current escalation of the Iraq- Iran conflict must not surprise anyone, because Saddam's regime has been and is wasging war agaisnt Iran on bhehalf of America. This war has come to swallow up Arab resources which should have been used to foil the Camp David accords, liberate the occupied Arab territories, and establish the independent Palestinian state — something on which the whole world is unanimously agreed, with the exception of America, its allies, and some sides in our Arab homeland. These sides are currently supporting U.S. plans in more than one place.

In its daily "Behind the News" column, the newspaper *TISH RIN* says: The evil, premeditated U.S. intentions against the region are no longer a secret to anyone who wants to know or to calculate the dangers posed by the U.S. attempts to expand the fierce war that the Iraqi regime has launched against the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Washington, which is lying in wait for the Gulf and waiting for the opportunity to interfere militarily in the Gulf, seeks to impose its hegemony over the Gulf states' resources to and restore the dignity it lost through the failure of its military interference in Lebanon.

Through its continuous efforts and contacts which circumstances have caused to become overt, Syria is playing a pan-Arab and humanitarian role that is no less positive and effective than its great role in support of the Arabs and citizens in Lebanon. This role is aimed at preventing more parties from beinv involved in this fierce war and at curbing the effects this war has on our brothers in the Gulf and our friends in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This role is also aimed at containing any imperialist-U.S. attempt to exploit the war in order to impose hegemony and an imperialist military presence in the region. While Syria is exerting its good efforts with its brothers in the Gulf and friends in Iran in order to prevent the expansion of this war, it is also exercising a duty that it has never stopped assuming despite its firm stand of denouncing this war from the very beginning of its unjustified eruption, a war whose dangers and dimensions should have been realized by everyone.

Al-Asad Receives Envoy, Message of Saudi King

JN221149 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard and personal envoy of Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. At-Tuwayjiri conveyed a message to the president from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with recent developments in the region. The president asked him to convey a reply message to King Fahd. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the developments and the situation in the region.

Delegation Begins Economic Talks in Moscow

JN212130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Moscow — Economic talks between the Syrian delegation led by Assistant Minister of Planning Hamid Mar'i and the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations began in Moscow today. The two sides discussed the bases and prospects of promoting the economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also discussed implementing the USSR-Syrian project of constructing a thermo-electric power station in Damascus and preparing for the establishment of a metro in Syria through the joint cooperation of the two countries' establishments.

Sharaf Leads Delegation to Moscow Meetings

NC221554 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 May (SANA) — Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, left for Moscow today at the head of a delegation comprised of a number of experts and technicians. Dr Sharaf will lead the Syrian side to the meetings of the third session of the joint Syrian-Soviet Committee scheduled to begin in Moscow today.

Further Commentary on Jewish Conference in Morocco

JN191644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Moroccan regime has offered excuses to the Arab world for its hosting of the Zionist conference. These excuses should be examined and discussed by every Arab, who will then discover the logic of Arab rulers who have fallen into the abyss of capitulationist dealings with imperialism, into the illusion of mating Arab money with Jewish know-how, and into the dungeons of secret meetings with enemies. The Moroccan regime presents its excuses in points that may be summarized as follows:

Fist: A strong attack on the Arab sides that criticized and denounced convening the Zionist conference on Morrocan territory, with Israeli and international Zionist participation. These Arab sides were also accused of being expansionist, of wanting to picture themselves as being the pulsing conscience of the Arab nation.

Second: Morocco has the right to call Moroccan Jews, wherever they are, to meet on Moroccan territory.

Third: Morocco is an independent, sovereign country that does not accept interferance in its affairs. It has the right to act accordingly.

Fourth: Morocco has not forsaken any of it Arab, Islamic, or Jerusalem commitments.

There is no doubt that Morocco is an independent country; no Arab argues about that. The Arabs are very anxious that Morocco should be truly independent and that its policies and relations should be decided in Rabat, not in Washington, and according to the interests of the Moroccan masses, not the interests of a very small faction that has separated itself from the masses and tied itself to the interests of international imperialism and Zionism. This faction has made itself a mediator, peddler, and Trojan horse for the imperialists and Zionists in the Arab homeland.

Morocco's independence and sovereighty do not conflict with demands that it respect the pan-Arab commitments it took upon itself by its own will and that it respect — outwardly at least — the will of the Moroccan masses, which cannot be in any way the same as the imperialist or Zionist will.

True, Moroccan independence requires at the very beginning that Morocco's policy stem from the interests of the Moroccan masses and adhere to the pan-Arab causes of the Arab nation. When Morocco's policy is changed from reflecting the independence of Moroccan decisionmaking that responds to the interests of Moroccan masses into a funnel inside the Arab arena, for the voices of Washington, Tel Aviv, and Arab rulers who are conniving with them, a question is immediately posed by the Arab masses: How can there be talk of independence, when the Moroccan decision is pawned for Washington, Tel Aviv, and the enemies of the Moroccan and Arab people?

There is no conflict between Morocco's independence and its commitment to the pan-Arab cause of the Arab nation. There is a great deal of conflict between the interests of the Moroccan masses —which are indivisible from the interests of Arab masses — and the interests of Washington, Tel Aviv, and those tied to them.

He who doubts these facts should ask the Moroccan masses whether they support Tel Aviv and Washington, or Jerusalem, Palestine, and the pan-Arab causes of the Arab nation.

The Pan-Arab cause of the Arab nation is the cause of all the Arab countries. No side may act individually on that cause, and no side may foresake that cause, barter on it, or depart from Arab summit resolutions which are binding on all those who agreed and adhered to them.

To assert that Morocco's hosting the Zionist conference does not include any retreat from Morocco's pan-Arab commitments is to make an assertion on weak evidence that cannot stand up to objective argument. It is enough to read the statements of Israeli rulers and Israelis who attended the conference to answer this assertion.

If hosting the conference does not constitute forsaking pan-Arab commitments, then arranging secret meetings between Israeli rulers and the capitulationists and peddling liquidatory and capitulationist settlements also are not a forsaking of pan-Arab commitments.

This logic does not differ from the ill-fated logic of Anwar as-Sadat, who attempted to picture his capitulation as a practical execution of pan-Arab commitments. The fate of this logic and its user is well known. This logic cannot convince Moroccan or Arab masses.

As to the Moroccan regime's so-called right to invite Moroccan Jews to a meeting in Morocco, this is a matter that calls for analyzing the true intentions of the Moroccan regime:

First: International media have agreed that more than half of those who attended the conference were not Moroccans.

Second: Representatives of the Zionist rascist regime, Israel, did not come to the conference as Moroccans, but as representatives of the regime that has occupied all of Palestine and territories of other Arab countries and expelled the Palestinian people from their land and is practicing a crime of race extermination against them. None of those representatives made one speech denouncing the mutiny of Israeli rulers against the United Nations and the international community. None of those representatives called for respecting the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and for withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

If the Moroccan regime considers Israelis of Moroccan origin in Israel Moroccan citizens who deserve having the doors of Morocco opened for them, this does not honor the Moroccan regime. If anyone has any doubt about this, then he must ask the sons of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza, and the Arab strugglers who fell in the prisons and detention camps, about the dirty and barbaric role played by the greatest part of these whom the Moroccan regime relates itself to.

In addition to this, none of those attending have called for respecting Palestinian rights and for withdrawal from occupied territories. All they called for is, in the end, a kind of Arab capitulation to occupation and usurping Arab rights. As to the conscience of the Arab nation, there is no doubt that the Moroccan regime's action does not reflect the pulse of Arab masses or the conscience of the Arab nation.

Independent Decision Termed 'Excuse'

JN210845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 21 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Regarding the convening of the Zionist conference in Morocco and the dimensions of this dangerous step, *TISHRIN* says: As an excuse to defend its actions, the Moroccan regime has resorted to talk about the independent decision, saying that Morocco is an independent country which is free to receive whoever it wishes on its territory and whenever it wishes. This excuse is, word for word, a repetition of As-Sadat's and 'Arafat's excuses — the independent Egyptian decision to go to Israel, and the independent Palestinian decision to transfer Palestinian will to King Husayn so that he also can use the Jordanian independent decision to make a deal with Israel. They forget that this violates their adherence to joint Arab action, especially the Arab League charter and the resolutions of Arab summits which were held in this context. This adherence enhances the freedom of decision in any Arab country as long as it comes within the framework of the League, and comes from the belief in the reasons which makes it a duty to belong to this League.

TISHRIN concludes: This reactionary line must be watched and pursued wherever its treachery is manifested. This line will not stop committing treason and treachery against the nation and its solidarity if it is not deterred. We must examine the effectiveness of the Baghdad summit resolutions in deterring As-Sadat in preparation for learning lessons in what must be done against the reactionaries.

Beginning of New Camp David

JN190843 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 19 May 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Camp David Conspiracy Will Not Pass," *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The Arab-Zionist dispute contains basic constants, and the Arabs' central cause of Palestine is the essence of this dispute. No one can bypass or harm these constants. What then if some seek to undermine and cancel these constants, or to endorse them in order to serve the Zionist enemy's interests and its scheme of completely liquidating the Palestinian cause?

Viewed from this angle, one can realize the gravity of the Moroccan regime's action of hosting the Jewish conference on Moroccan soil, welcoming an official Israeli delegation, and holding contacts with it. From this angle too, one can confirm the seriousiness of the Moroccan regime's practices and its role as the godfather of the policy of capitulation and the scheme to impose the Zionist-U.S. hegemony on the Arab region. The serious results that are being revealed about the Zionist conference in Morocco — namely what the enemy media has reported about the Moroccan regime's expressing its readiness to host Palestinian- Israeli talks and about King Hassan II asking the Zionist delegation to convey a message to the Zionist enemy leaders — confirm that what took place on Moroccan soil is part of the consipracy against the Palestinian cause and a step that is tantamount to a pan-Arab betrayal of Arab struggle.

One cannot remain silent over this step or consider it as a transient event. It is the beginning of a new Camp David in which the Moroccan regime will assume the same role that As-Sadat assumed with Camp David. This is so because it is no coincidence that the Moroccan regime announced that consultations on the Israeli delegation's visit to Morocco were held with 'Arafat prior to the visit, and that the Moroccan regime asked 'Arafat to not fight Israel because the word Palestine means peace.

The Arab masses and their steadfast forces are lying in wait for all of those trying to harm the cause of Arab struggle, the Palestinian cause. These masses, which have halted the spread of As-Sadat's Camp David, foiled the 17 May agreement and definitely closed the doors on its face, will not allow the United States, Israel, and the agents of the policy of capitulation to circumvent the cause or to infiltrate through the Arab Maghreb door. The United States and Israel will not succeed in using their sabre-rattling and their threats to carry out aggression and weaken Arab confrontation of the capitulatory conspiracy. Confronting capitulation with a trend, allies, and tools is part of the comprehensive Arab confrontation of the comprehensive imperialist and Zionist onslaught.

Information Minister on Israeli Aggression

GF221202 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Doha, 22 May (WAKH) — Syrian Information Minister Yasin Rajuh noted that his country is ready to confront and to deter any Israeli aggression. He said that Syria is ready for any aggression that Israel may launch at any time with the intention of reshuffling the cards in the region.

In a statement to Qatari newspaper *AR-RAYAH* published today the Syrian minister pointed out that the causes for an Israeli aggression seem more acute now than at any time before, particularly as Israel is suffering disappointment following the failure of its invasion of Lebanon. As the Likud coalition fears the consequences of this fiasco, it tries to make up for that through a military operation that reshuffles the cards and ensures its success in the upcoming election.

The Syrian minister, who is currently visiting Doha, stated that there is also a common U.S.-Israeli reason for resorting to aggression: the collapse of the U.S. role in Lebanon, where this role was designed to be another step in the direction of subduing the region to the strategy of Camp David. Rajuh went on to say that his country possesses sophisticated Soviet weapons that are adequate to repulse any aggression and that it has half a million soldiers who know their role and mission.

Briefs

Outgoing Hungarian Ambassador — Damascus, 21 May (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received here today Hungarian Ambassador in Damascus Zoltan Zsigmond on the occasion of the expiry of his term in Syria. During the meeting, the talks revolved around the existing cooperation and friendship between Syria and Hungary. [Text] [Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 May 84 JN]

IDB Loan Accord Signed — Jidda, 21 May (WAKH) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has signed a 7.4 million dollars loan accord with Syria to finance import of jute from Bangladesh. The accord was signed here today by IDB President Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali and Syrian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Muhammad at-Tall. With the signing of the accord, the total loans so far extended by the bank to Syria amounted to 24.4 million dollars since the beginning of the Islamic Hejira year [beginning September 1983]. [Text][Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 21 May 84 GF]

Shamir Rejects Unemployment Answer to Inflation
TA230648 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 May 84 p 2

[Text] The most difficult and urgent problem Israel faces today is the rate of inflation, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Jerusalem Economic Conference yesterday. "We shall concentrate our efforts on solving this top priority problem" if the Likud is re-elected, he said.

Shamir was introduced by Sam Rothberg, the American-Jewish businessman and veteran leading supporter of Israeli causes.

Shamir stressed there would be no widespread unemployment in this country. "Economists say that a high rate of inflation such as ours can be fought only by radical and painful measures. This is the term used for unemployment," he said.

Concerning Israel's standard of living, Shamir said its rise has been fast and systematic, as has the quality of life of the individual at every level of society and in every ethnic group. This improvement is most dramatic among urban and rural Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District when the conditions before and since 1967 are compared, he said.

Earlier in the day, conference participants visited the Isratech 84 exhibition at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds. The exhibition closes tomorrow evening.

Shamir Settles Dispute in La'am Faction
TA230649 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 May 84 p 2

[Report by political correspondent]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Prime Minister Shamir last night healed the breach in Herut's small La'am faction, ruling that Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak will head the La'am list. However, if the Likud forms the next government, Knesset Member Ehud Olmert will represent the faction in the Cabinet.

Olmert and Shostak had agreed that Shamir should arbitrate their dispute over their faction leadership, and Shostak announced that he would not seek ministerial office again.

Shostak is followed on the La'am list by Olmert, and then by MK's Yig'al Kohen and Avraham Hirshson.

Tehiya-TZOMET Officially Announce Merger
TA221153 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] TZOMET [Movement for the Revival of Zionism] and Tehiya today officially announced their merger. They will submit a joint list for the Knesset. The joint movement also announced its intention to sign an agreement on the distribution of surplus votes with the Likud.

[Begin Ronen recording] Tehiya and TZOMET will run on a united ticket, although they will maintain their character as independent parties. At a news conference today the list's leaders, Minister Yuval Ne'eman, MK Ge'ula Kohen, and Refa'el Eytan, announced the names that will appear in the eight and ninth slots on their Knesset lists: 'Ezer Argaman of TZOMET, who lives in Hanita; and Tuvya Leshem.

The leaders of the joint list also reported that in talks with the Likud leadership it was decided to sign an agreement on the surplus votes that will be shared by both parties.

Replying to correspondents' questions, the leaders of Tehiya and TZOMET also discussed political issues. Ge'ula Kohen declared that if Jordan attacks Israel, and then Israel captures the Gil'ad and Basham regions, we will not remain there as an occupying power. On Lebanon, Refa'el Eytan said that we should maintain control over the main roads in southern Lebanon until a comprehensive agreement [heskem] is reached that will guarantee, among other things, the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon. [end recording]

Last Knesset Session Scheduled for 17 June
TA221212 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1144 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] In today's meeting, the Knesset presidium decided to hold its last summer session on 17 June. This was reported by our correspondent Sha'ul Stav.

Treasury, Histadrut Agree on Tax Bracket Revision
TA220656 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 84 p 2

[Report by the economic affairs correspondent]

[Text] The Treasury and the Histadrut agreed yesterday that the ministry will ask the Knesset Finance Committee to raise income tax brackets, child allowances and tax credit points by 16 percent for May over their level in April. The decision followed that of the employers and the labour federation to grant a 12-percent compensation to workers because of April's 20.6 percent inflation.

The ministry added that the talks with the Histadrut about a permanent system of income tax bracket adjustment will continue.

The one-time adjustment of wages for May will bring a 10 to 13 percent rise in wages. The largest increases will be in the lower part of the salary scale.

Tax brackets for May 1984: 25 percent — up to IS101,000
35 percent — IS101,001-IS138,000
45 percent — IS138,001-IS182,000
50 percent — IS182,001-IS249,000
60 percent — IS249,001-IS288,000
66 percent — over IS288,000

The tax threshold for a single person or for a married person whose spouse works is IS26,462 in May (up from IS22,772 in

April). The threshold for a family with two children, not including child allowances, is IS61,742 (was IS53,132 in April).

Kimche Holds Talks With U.S. Ambassador

TA230541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The attacks against oil tankers in the Persian Gulf were discussed yesterday between the director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. It seems that Israel and the United States do not fear that the oil supply from the Persian Gulf to the West will stop for the time being. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Egypt refused a U.S. request to station aircraft on its territory for the purpose of an operation in the Persian Gulf, out of fear of being considered a U.S. satellite. Schiffer has also learned that the ties between Iraq and the Soviet Union have recently been strengthened, and Baghdad is receiving large supplies of Soviet arms for its war against Iran.

Burg Concerned About Effect of Reagan Reelection

TA181021 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 84 p 3

[Report by Yehuda Ari'el]

[Excerpt] "I am concerned about political developments which would be against Israel if President Reagan is reelected. He knows he would not be able to run for election a third time, and therefore he would be able to do what he liked. In that event they will not talk with us about Judaea and Samaria. Beyond this, Jerusalem would be the center of debate with the consequent question over whether it could be the capital of Israel." These remarks were made by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg in the Nahariyya Carlton Hotel, at a party to celebrate the 75th brithday of Rabbi Dr Aharon Keller, and to commemorate his 40 years in office as rabbi in the western Galilee.

MA'ARIV's Segev on Warning by Syrian Minister

TA221206 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 May 84 p 8

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "Sealing 'The Soviet Loophole'"]

[Text] The announcement made by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, that should there be any U.S. interference in a new Middle East war, the Soviet Union would be able to airlift to Damascus two divisions in 8 hours must not go unheeded by either Israel or the United States.

This is not the first time the Soviet Union and Syria have threatened Soviet military intervention in the event of a new outbreak of war. Moscow has warned Jerusalem on several previous occasions that "Syria would not remain alone" in a war for its existence. In fact, ever since Bulganin sent the message to Ben-Gurion at the height of the "Sinai Campaign" in 1956, Israel has always kept in mind the possibility of Soviet intervention against it. This was even operationally manifest on the eve of the 6-day war and the war of attrition, when Israel made sure not to hit Egyptian or Syrian targets close to where Soviet instructors could be found. It was the same consideration that was the guideline during the Yom Kippur War, when the fear of Soviet involvement blocked the IDF's advance toward Damascus.

Still, this disclosure by the Syrian defense minister differs from any previous Syrian-Soviet warning. This time General Talas mentioned a concrete move, which has probably also been tested operationally and which undoubtedly had been sanctioned by the Soviet political and military leadership. The Soviet-Syrian "friendship pact" has thus become a sort of military treaty — and Syria would be the first country outside the Warsaw Pact where the right of Soviet military intervention could actually be implemented.

One can safely assume that the declaration made by the Syrian defense minister did not go unnoticed by the different general staff commands dealing with this matter, so that Israeli planning will from now on take the possibility of Soviet intervention in the case of another war with Syria more seriously.

Yet from a regional and global point of view, General Talas' declaration is aimed at Washington just as much as it is directed at Jerusalem, because U.S. involvement in Lebanon and the possibility that the "Rapid Deployment Force" will intervene in the Gulf war have caused Moscow and Damascus to draw a "red line" for the eventuality of U.S. military involvement against Syria. Such a "red line" could be operative not only in the case of a war against Israel, but also in the case of a flare-up in the Persian Gulf area. Of all the Arab countries, Syria is the only one that backs Khomeyni against Saddam Husayn's regime in Baghdad. Despite the efforts of the Soviet Union and France, Damascus has again refused permission for oil to flow through the Iraqi oil pipeline in its territory and has thus weakened Iraq's economic standing and harmed its military enterprises. If Syrian aid to Iran goes beyond this economic sphere, a situation may well develop in which the Western superpowers would wish to weaken the Iranian rearguard and will find it necessary to undermine Syrian aid to Khomeyni's regime. General Talas' warning has consequently sounded an alarm in Washington in this regard as well, and quite clearly, too.

This new development makes it incumbent upon Israel and the United States to this time give serious thought to the possibility of signing a military pact. Israel has never believed in U.S. military involvement at its side. Nor does it believe in it today. The Israeli war plans have always been based exclusively on the IDF and its power. Today, too, in the case of a local war, the IDF will have to be strong enough to defeat its foes without any external interference. The ongoing crisis in the Persian Gulf and the increased Soviet involvement in Syria, however, require that both Washington and Jerusalem devote further time and thinking to the changes now happening in our region.

The governments that will be established in Israel and the United States after the two respective elections must together contemplate ways to seal the "Soviet loophole" that has been exposed as an open gash in the Western defense of the Middle East. If this requires converting the Israeli-U.S. understanding into a formal defense pact, neither Israel and the United States shoud be deterred by the prospect, unless they want to harm their own vital national interests.

Rabbi Levinger Detention Extended for 2 Days

TA221711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrate's court has extended Rabbi Moshe Levinger's detention by another 2 days. This is reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz. Rabbi Levinger is one of the people suspected of belonging to the Jewish underground. The detention of another suspect was extended by 3 days and a third suspect will remain in custody until tomorrow noon.

Underground Suspects Disclose Intentions

TA230656 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Some of the Jewish underground suspects have said that they had intended to attack six members of the National Guidance Committee in the West Bank. In an interview to *MA'ARIV*, they said that two of those members were deported and therefore their lives were saved, two were attacked and wounded, one attack was foiled, and another attack was not carried out due to problems in the field and their commander's hesitation. The date they had chosen was a symbolic one, to mark 30 days since the bloodshed in Bet Hadassah. They kept the houses of the six people under observation. They said they warned the people who went to the Al-Birah mayor's house that they had placed booby traps nearby, but an accident occurred and a police bomb disposal expert was wounded.

We did these things because our lives and those of our families were in danger, they said, and the police and the army did not do anything to protect us.

One of the suspects claimed there is no question of an underground since they have no commander; there is no planned terrorism; and there are no codes or communications systems. There is only a group of young men who did what they did in order to protect their brothers because they saw the government as weak. We operated, he said, like the Hagana, the Irgun and LEHI, Ben-Gurion, Begin, and Shamir.

Underground Suspect May Have Warned Government

TA201104 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 May 84 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that there is a suspicion that prior to the attack on the Arab mayors, the Jewish underground warned circles in the military government about the operation. A Shilo inhabitant, who is currently on a Gush Emunim immigration promotion mission, is suspected of having informed the military government. He has been asked to return to Israel, but is postponing his return. The suspect, who is an immigrant from the United States, was the secretary of Shilo. It is not clear whether he gave an advance warning of the expected attack, and if so, whether he did so anonymously. The man is also suspected of participating in the attack against Bassam ash-Shak'ah.

If it turns out that the suspicions are correct, the investigation may expand to include IDF elements. It is known that two military government officers have been arrested in connection with the underground case. One of them was the deputy governor of Ramallah at the time of the attack. He was wounded himself as a result of the explosion in the garage where the car of Al-Birah's mayor, Ibrahim at-Tawil, was parked.

Our correspondent has also learned that the Jewish underground members decided on their target, the attack against the mayors who were members of the National Guidance Committee, after they had learned the contents of a document prepared in the office of coordinator of activities in the territories at that time, Dani'el Mat, recommending that those mayors should be removed since they were inciting people.

Commentators on Significance of Moroccan Congress

MA'ARIV's Harif

TA181403 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 May 84 Weekend Supplement pp 32, 33

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The PLO Knew About the Israelis' Invitation"]

[Text] The unexpected meeting in Morocco between Israeli Knesset members and Moroccan Administration officials; the publicity given to this "dialogue," despite the fact that the Knesset members were not part of a parliamentary delegation, but were part of a delegation of Jewish figures invited to the biannual congress of the Jewish community in Morocco; the fact that the Moroccan Administration took the risk of attack by the Arab world's rejectionist camp because of this "terrible deviation" — all these underline the dramatic element in that special meeting which was filled with highlights. More than having explained the motives for the Moroccan initiative, quite a long list of questions is left: Why did it occur? What does Morocco want to achieve by it, and why did it occur just now?

These questions were not even answered after all the heart-to-heart talks that the Israelis held with the Moroccans, including talks with Cabinet ministers.

These meetings should, of course, be welcomed, talks which, unlike what has occurred in the past, went beyond the field of secrecy and were held in public.

If there were people who thought that Morocco was not representing itself alone in this matter, but the "Arab world," the reports from Damascus soon contradicted this: Syria warned King Hassan of Morocco that it regarded the invitation to the Israelis as an even graver act than that of As-Sadat. Anyone who wants to regard this hard-hitting warning, and, particularly, the comparison between the act of Hassan II and that of Anwar as-Sadat, as a hint of the fate that can be expected by the Moroccan king if he follows in As-Sadat's footsteps, will not, so it seems, be very much mistaken.

When six terrorist organizations subordinate to discipline imposed by Damascus join in this attack against Morocco, the courageous Moroccan king would do well to muse about his personal fate.

It seems that after all there is no question of an unsolvable riddle here. There were people who thought that Hassan needed this gesture toward Israel because he could, in this way, win support and a demonstration of good will from the Americans, either through weapons and economic aid, or other aid in Morocco's fight against Algeria and the Polisario.

There were people who thought that Morocco was chosen by Egypt and other "moderate" Arab countries as being able, through its moves, to influence the election in Israel: to help bring the Likud down and bring the Alignment into power, with which it would be easier to conduct negotiations on an arrangement for the Palestinian problem. Anyone who sees this as the primary motive behind the Moroccan exercise can, of course, find proof in the interview that the leader of the Moroccan Jewish communities, David 'Amar, gave the French news agency (AFP). 'Amar, who organized this biannual congress of Moroccan Jews, visited Israel and spent much time working on the composition of the Israeli delegation. He is well known as a person close to the Peace Now movement, and what he said in that interview will draw attention: "The very fact of the visit to Morocco by Israeli figures is a great step forward toward a Jewish-Arab dialogue. I would like this dialogue to begin at the right time, with a new government, with new people, and with new ideas."

This week Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said, at the time the Jewish congress in Rabat opened with the participation of the honorable Israeli delegation: For the first time in the history of the Jewish communities in Morocco — representatives of Israel were received openly and with honor in Morocco and this should be regarded as positive. This is another expression of the increasing and expanding acceptance by Arab countries of the independent existence of the State of Israel. At the same occasion, Shamir attacked the idea of a Palestinian state, even one that would be "alongside the State of Israel" (that is, in the regions of Judaea and Samaria, and Gaza, something acceptable to several of the Alignment's figures) and not instead of it, as the PLO is demanding in its well-known charter.

Those people in Morocco who would like a "new government, new people, and new ideas," mean this "new" idea: an independent Palestinian state.

Even those who were in Rabat this week and enjoyed the friendly Moroccan reception are proceeding with caution in evaluating the practical results of this encouraging event. They are quite right to act in this way. This is because Moroccan King Husayn, who heads the Jerusalem Committee, is speaking about nothing less than an independent Palestinian state as a condition for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The fact that he was prepared to invite several Israeli Knesset members — in accordance with the criteria scrupulously laid down in Rabat — should not mislead us. Of course we should welcome this direct dialogue, since, after all, Israel has always believed that it is only through direct contact that the differences of opinion between it and its neighbors can be resolved. It seems, however, that it is incumbent on us to not judge a book by its cover.

Until it becomes clear whether this meeting between Israelis and Moroccan Administration officials is a turning point, we are not free of the obligation to suspect even what appears to be in order.

Why is all this so?

Because King Hassan was involved in an initiative that was, as far as can be seen, less in order than the one now linked with his name, when his ministers were, superficially, among the hosts of the Israeli delegation.

Not long ago we learned of instructive details about a sophisticated move thought up by the PLO — especially Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah — for the expansion of its ties with Jewish and Israeli elements. Hassan was intended to have a special role in this initiative.

Knowledgeable people have known for a long time about the concentrated effort by important people in the PLO establishment to develop links and contacts with Jewish and Israeli elements in Israel and outside it. The goal was to score propaganda points, expand the circle of people identified with the PLO, expand the internal split in Israel, and increase official Israel's isolation.

In order to attain this objective, contacts were begun to arrange a meeting between senior Palestinians and well-known Jewish figures. Thus the names of Philip Klutznik and Howard Squadron, the former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of MajorAmerican Jewish Organizations, were mentioned. The Palestinians who were supposed to participate in the Palestinian-Jewish meeting were: Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, a member of the PLO Executive Committee; Khalid al-Hasan; and (Nabil Sha'th), one of 'Arafat's senior advisers; as well as Palestinians living permanently in the United States and who are in the Palestinian lobby there: Professor Edward (Sa'id) and Professor Hisham Shirabi. As far as is known, the contacts to arrange such a meeting between Palestinians and "Jewish leaders" began more than a year ago, but no conclusion at all was reached because the Jewish figures involved in those contacts were interested in a PLO guarantee to publish a "moderate" declaration after the meeting.

This move, which did not work out, was part of an entire program. At the same time, with the agreement of 'Arafat, several moves were planned that were aimed at illustrating the Israeli "peace camp's" rapprochement and publicly legitimizing, at the highest level, contacts with it. A meeting by 'Arafat, As-Sartawi (who was murdered some time later), Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Nazim), and ('Amar Saqr) with a delegation from the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace in January 1983 was the peak of this rapprochement. It was 'Arafat who personally gave the signal for the expansion of the term "progressive Israeli forces" to also apply to those defining themselves officially as Zionists, particularly if they supported the Palestinians' demand for self-determination and a state.

Among the ideas that were examined by 'Arafat's personnel at that time was the invitation of Israelis (along the lines of members of the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace) as observers to the PNC meeting held in Algeria on 14 February 1983. The radical elements in the PLO, however, were opposed to this. As far as is known, these elements came out with pointed criticism, under Syrian influence, against this action by 'Arafat; and even Nayif Hawatimah, who supported 'Arafat's moves at that point, described the meeting as a theatrical, useless move. The same elements claimed they did not completely reject contacts with Israelis, but on condition that these Israelis would be known as anti-Zionists.

'Arafat thought up the idea of taking the well-known Jewish leaders and Israelis who support a Palestinian state in a pincer movement. Even the "moderates" among his advisers, however, are not so moderate. Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, who was to have headed the delegation to the United States for the meeting with Jewish elements, has a certain past. When he was the PLO representative in Cairo, Ad-Dajani, the moderate, described the goal of his organization very well: "...the PLO exists wherever there is a Palestinian people... we exist in our conquered homeland, in the West Bank, in Gaza, in Galilee and in Yafo...."

It appears that this fact per se proves that when it is a question of the PLO's basic objectives, there is not much difference between a moderate and one who is not moderate. When it appeared to the PLO that the split in the Jewish and Israeli camp could easily be widened, against the background of the reactions of Jews in Israel and abroad to the Peace for Galilee campaign, senior Fatah figures decided to try to use these elements for the PLO's political rehabilitation, following the loss of the military infrastructure in Lebanon and the forced exile from there creating a group of wanderers.

Here the king of Morocco enters the picture, because the PLO asked him to **hold a public meeting with moderate Israeli figures!**

As far as is known, Hassan stated his willingness to do this.

There are authoritative elements in Israel for whom this development came as no surprise. They knew it would come, and the only question was timing.

Was the timing — the eve of the Israeli election — a coincidence? Was the composition of the Israeli delegation, decided upon between David 'Amar and Labor Party members (at the Mimuna [North African Jewish religious festival] MK Refa'el Edri met with the prime minister and informed him that he and several Knesset members were going to Morocco), a coincidence? Were the remarks made by David 'Amar in the interview mentioned above coincidental? Was the fact of a public meeting with "moderate Israeli figures," something that had already been known about nearly a year ago, coincidental?

It seems that there are too many coincidences here for us to assume that everything was coincidental!

It is known here that the possibility of increasing this kind of activity and passing "messages" via moderate groups to the Israeli public was discussed between the PLO and Morocco. The fact that a delegation of Knesset members was invited, a delegation that also included a token Likud representative (Me'ir Shitrit) should not mislead us. This could be a fig leaf to cover up the real intention. If the Moroccans had invited Israelis from the Israel-Palestine Peace Council, this would not have been helpful to them in achieving their purpose.

If we had not known about this undercover activity between the PLO and Morocco, we might have been more surprised at the event that occurred in the Rabat Hilton Hotel. This did not come, however, as a complete surprise. For example, it was known that the PLO also raised the idea of holding a symposium and rallies throughout Europe with the participation of "moderate" Jews. The first symposium was to have been held in Austria and the entire move won the blessing of Bruno Kreisky in his meeting with 'Arafat. Furthermore, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), worked in coordination with Moroccan elements to obtain Saudi Arabian financial backing for this plan.

There are grounds to assume that 'Arafat's PLO, in its trouble, arrived at the conclusion, unlike its rivals in Damascus, that talking with Zionist and Israeli elements should not be rejected out of hand, particularly if they were to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The saying in Morocco that the PLO knew about the invitation to the Israelis fits in with the information that has been known in Israel for some time.

There is no need at all to spoil the Moroccan joy, if there is anyone who regards the Rabat congress this week — in which Israelis and Moroccans met — as the beginning of a turning point. King Hassan, who does not conceal his views about the future of Jerusalem and the need for the establishment of a Palestinian state, is worthy of respect and admiration. But at least until the entire truth comes to light, it would be better to temper the respect with suspicion.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT's Ben-Porat

TA181036 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 May 84 p 5

[Commentary by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat]

[Excerpt] It is no secret that the Moroccan monarch, like other Arab rulers, needs U.S. support and aid. This is a direct result of his personal situation, the domestic crisis in his country, the war in the Sahara, as well as a series of other elements whose significance does not concern us at this point. After all, this column is being written while I am still in a Casablanca hotel room. So much for the background regarding the fact that the King of Morocco needs U.S. support — supplied to him, inter alia, through the generous assistance of the Jews of his court.

However, that is not all. Hassan II is considered a moderate statesman in the Arab world, and even though token Moroccan troops have once or twice been sent to join the pan-Arab front against Israel, the King of Morocco is not exactly a certified warmonger. Perhaps one could even say that the opposite is the case. His friends say that he genuinely believes in the possibility of and chance for a real peace between Israel and the Arabs, with the Palestinians at their head. How can one forget that the daring political move which led to the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Egypt first began in utter secrecy here, in the royal palace?

Moreover, at a time when the royalist regime is threatened by the left wing on the political map, which derives inspiration and encouragement inter alia from its revolutionary neighbor, Algeria, on the right looms the no less threatening presence of a Khomeyni-style Islamic fundamentalism, which has already wiped out one ruler — the shah of Iran. Faced by these various elements, the Moroccan regime relies on the West for support, and cooperates closely with moderate elements in the Arab world. As a direct result of all this, Morocco steadfastly reiterates its tolerance in religious and national affairs, borne out by the recent Rabat conference held under the king's auspices, in which the Israeli delegation played an active role.

Seen from these and other aspects, the political message emanating from Rabat is therefore clear and self-explanatory. This message has been repeated in innumerable talks with members of the Israeli delegation and with journalists, as well as highly authorized representatives — from the heads of the Jewish community, who are close to the royal palace and draw inspiration from it, to the leaders of Morocco's political parties and Cabinet members, led by the foreign minister. In other words, they are saying: By holding this international Jewish congress, attended by a sizeable Israeli delegation, on the soil of this Muslim country, we, the Moroccan authorities, would like to give proof of our open-mindedness, our receptiveness, our tolerance, and our desire to further peace in the Middle East. This objective will not be attained, the Moroccans add, unless a satisfactory solution to the Palestinian question is found. In order to get closer to solving this question, Morocco is prepared to continue serving as the territorial base for mediation attempts, aimed at achieving direct contacts between Israel and the Palestinians, meaning the PLO.

"The Likud government is aware of our position, but it closed the doors which we wanted to open," my politically high-ranking Moroccan interlocutors told me, adding that this is especially significant now, 2 months before the elections in Israel. "If the government in Israel changes, perhaps we may find Israeli statesmen who will know how to utilize the opportunity which Morocco is offering them on a silver platter."

My Moroccan interlocutors let it be understood that by hosting the Israeli delegation — a fact which angered various elements in the Arab world — the Moroccans took the first step. They are now awaiting Israel's reaction. Israel must take the next step, they believe, if it wishes to progress beyond the Camp David accords on the Palestinian issue. Therefore, no additional significant steps by Morocco's king or his government should be anticipated in the near future. Certainly not until Jerusalem provides Rabat with some sort of negotiable commodity, in this case meaning the Palestinian side of the coin. In other words: There must be some sort of concession regarding the traditional Israel stand on the Palestinian issue.

Given this background, we are now better able to understand the composition of the Israeli delegation — a format which, post factum, gave rise to criticism within the delegation itself in Rabat. Most of the delegates were either members or sympathizers of the Alignment and TAMI, with only a minority from the Likud. This minority consisted of MK Me'ir Shitrit. While the composition was determined here in Israel, it received the blessing of its Moroccan hosts. This was no coincidence, just as it was no coincidence that MK Charlie Biton's request to join the delegation was turned down. Not only is he a member of the Communist party but, during a visit to Morocco some time ago, he completely ignored the existence of the Jewish community there, and did not even take the trouble to pay a courtesy call.

Is all this going to lead anywhere? Hope springs eternal... In any case, one should not make light of the fact that after the affair with Egypt, 35 Israelis, including Knesset Members, professors and journalists, moved in absolute freedom in yet another Arab country. We should not make light of the fact that a Jewish community of some 15,000 people dwells in Morocco in relative security, calm, and comfort, enjoying every right and privilege. Moreover, I certainly would not make light of the exemplary hospitality that was accorded to me in Morocco by the Jews, where it is only natural, but also by Muslims — and that is something else again, certainly not something that goes without saying or should be taken for granted.

This was my first visit to Morocco, and I am not sorry I went. There is also this persistent thought in my mind, that this will most likely not be my last visit. Another door has been opened. Perhaps it will remain open.

Israel, ROK Double Price of Arms of Iran

TA220918 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 May 84 p 2

[Report from London by Yohanan Lahav]

[Excerpt] Western intelligence sources have shrugged at Israel's official announcement that it has stopped selling military equipment to Iran. They claim that the sales are continuing, the only difference being that the Israelis have doubled the price of the arms they sell. Such a report was published in London this morning.

According to the intelligence sources, Iran's second arms supplier, South Korea, also followed a pattern similar to Israel's, continuing to sell arms and demanding double the former price.

Iran, whose income from oil sales has dropped as a result of the Iraqi attacks on oil tankers and oil targets inside Iran, has encountered difficulties paying the high price required by Israel and Korea, the intelligence sources maintain. Moreover, the Iranians are furious at the new prices, which they deem to be price gouging and place most of the responsibility for the price hike on Israel and the United States "which exerts heavy pressure to stop all arms sales to Iran."

Consequently, Ayatollah Khomeyni and his close aides have decided to resume the terrorist campaign against U.S. targets primarily in Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, and apparently also against Israeli targets. Although it is true that most of the Iranian "volunteers" who had been stationed in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' region have been transferred from there, the Western intelligence sources have learned that 150 of them have been restationed at bases near Damascus, and are expected to carry out attacks against U.S. targets in various places in the world.

Israeli-Developed Missile Detection System Unveiled

TA211650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] An Israeli-developed missile detection system went on public display today during a visit by Defense Minister Moshe Arens to the El-Op Electro-Optics plant in Rehovot. The unique system allows shipboard operators to detect missiles, aircraft or other ships, without the system itself being detected during operation. It was one of several El-Op weapons systems shown to the minister, among others a highly accurate, but simple to operate range finder and fire control system for tanks.

Further on New System

TA220653 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 84 p 1

[Report by Yitzhaq 'Oqed]

[Excerpts] Nes Ziyyona — El-Op, a local electro-optics manufacturer, yesterday unveiled what it claims is a unique air-defence system for ships.

Called SPIRTAS, which stands for Shipboard Passive Infra-Red Target Acquisition System, the new device reportedly provides long-range detection of low-flying anti-ship missiles and aircraft, while remaining undetectable to the enemy.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens yesterday saw a demonstration of SPIRTAS at the El-Op plant. While its range remains classified, SPIRTAS is said to provide highly accurate target location and threat assessment, while weighing and costing less than conventional systems.

Unlike conventional radar, which emits and bounces radio waves off the target, SPIRTAS sends out infrared signals, which are passive and virtually undetectable by the target being tracked. According to company officials, no other country — including the U.S. — has developed such a system.

The SPIRTAS sensor head is mounted at the top of a ship's mast, where it scans the horizon. Computer-processed data is displayed at a video terminal operated by one sailor. The new system has already proved its operational reliability in extensive sea trials.

Arens also announced that the U.S. has agreed to let Israel use $250 million in aid money for defence industry development projects. He added that many U.S. firms have expressed interest in operating in Israel.

Envoy Discloses Development of 'Impenetrable Armor'

TA221044 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 May 84 p 1

[Report from France by Arnon Yafe]

[Text] Paris — 'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador to Paris, yesterday got the attention of the Jewish audience he was addressing when he made a surprise disclosure of Israel's "having developed armor that is impenetrable to the most advanced of the Arab armies' anti-tank shells." Sofer also noted that "this armor can also withstand the modern cannon installed in the Soviet T-72."

Sofer concluded his electrifying speech with shouts of "Shalom, shalom."

This is not the first time that the Israeli envoy has made such demagogical remarks with the aim of lifting the spirits of frustrated Jews whose attitude toward Israel in such events borders on the irrational. [sentence as published]

Cairo Tourist Office 'Probably' To Close

TA220920 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 84 p 1

[Text] Israel will probably close the Government Tourist Office in Cairo at the end of the month. The director of the Cairo Tourist Office, Maurice Cassouto, is expected to discuss this in Jerusalem soon.

IDF To Tear Down Fence Near Tabah Border Terminal

TA220924 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 84 p 3

[Text] The IDF will soon tear down the fence that was built near the Tabah border terminal, a top military source told *HA'ARETZ*. The source added that, although that project was to have been carried out 2 weeks ago, somehow the demolition operation was postponed.

Briefs

Sri Lanka Renews Relations — Sri Lanka has renewed its relations with Israel and enabled it to open an office in the U.S. Embassy in its capital, Colombo. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Israel has sent a senior diplomat to Sri Lanka to head the Israeli mission there. Israel is aiding Sri Lanka in the agricultural area, among others. The relations between the two countries were severed 14 years ago. An Indian paper, *THE DAILY SUN*, reported that Sri Lanka asked Israel's intelligence service to help it fight the Tamil terrorists, active in northern Sri Lanka. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 May 84 TA]

LIBYA

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Signed

LD231019 Paris International Service in French 1000 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Libya has signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. This was disclosed yesterday in Brussels by the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He pointed out that Tripoli accepts the verification procedures for its nuclear installations, and that Libya thereby undertakes not to develop atomic bombs.

Belgian Firm To Supply Plants

LD231435 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 23 May 84

[Excerpt] The Libyan Government has just placed an order for two nuclear power stations with the Belgian firm Belgonucleaire. These are medium-sized plants each 440 MW, but only the most sensitive central elements will be made in Belgium. Nevertheless the same firm will also supply most of the engineering equipment in its capacity as a consultant firm. The supply contract, it is said in Brussels, is worth $400 million, while the total cost of both the power plants will be more than $1 billion. In present circumstances such an order is more than welcome for industrialists and finance circles, but it also entails rather important political drawbacks. Here is Charles Lescaut to explain:

[Lescaut] The Libyan order is a skillful political gesture, but it comes at a bad time, provoking a paradoxical reaction from the Belgian Government which is hesitant about giving its authorization. In order to understand the matter we must take into account the following: In view of the extreme sensitivity of public opinion toward anything nuclear, the nonproliferation agreements signed by most of the states of the world commit the signatory states not to use nuclear energy for anything other than strictly peaceful purposes, that is to say primarily for electricity production. These states authorize the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out on-site checks at the installations to verify these states are not using the equipment to produce plutonium, the radioactive substance used as a by-product in a reactor using enriched uranium. The treaty also binds the signatory states not to sell nuclear equipment, except to states which have in turn also signed the treaty.

[Announcer] Right Charles, no problem so far because Libya has, in fact, signed the nonproliferation treaty and it accepts the international agency's control procedures.

[Lescaut] That's right, but the real problem is primarily a political one. Given that all the methods currently used in the operation of nuclear reactors result in the production of plutonium, doubts remain as to the final destination of this by-product, despite the controls of the international agency from which, it seems, things can be hidden. If the order is placed by a government considered to be politically unsafe, as is clearly the case with Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya, the suppliers have to ask themselves how far it is in their interests to help such a government to produce, at some stage, its own atomic bomb. In the end then it has got to be a political decision. Only three governments hold the trump cards in a matter like this — the Americans, the Soviets and the French — because these are the only three states to have developed their own methods of using uranium. The Belgian firm which Libya has turned to works under American licence, which presupposes Washington's final agreement. After the affair of the Libyan Embassy in London though, the West seems little inclined to extend such trust to Al-Qadhdhafi. It is in this respect that the gesture from Libya is so skillful: Faced with the anger of the West, Al-Qadhdhafi dangles an enormous contract in front of their noses, something that might make even the firmest moral principles wilt. In any case, it is one way of trying to break the ice.

At-Turayki Describes Relations With Gulf, Tunisia, UK

PM221612 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 21 May 84 p 1

[Muhammad Kurayshan report by telephone: "At-Turayki: Libya Is Against Any Aggression Threatening Gulf Security"]

[Text] Tunis — Libyan General People's Committee Secretary for Foreign Liaison 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki has stressed his country's support for the Arab Gulf states following recent incidents. He affirmed Libya is against any aggression threatening the security of these states. Speaking at a press conference at the Tunis Hilton, he said Libya is against the expansion of war and that it is always striving to promote good relations between the brothers in the Gulf and Iran. He said his country will pursue the necessary contacts with the aim of preventing the deterioration of the situation in the area.

Speaking about the recent Libyan-Tunisian dispute, At-Turayki denied there is a media campaign against Tunisia or against its president, "whom Colonel al-Qadhdhafi highly respects and admires." He affirmed there is no apprehension regarding the strategic relations between Libya and Tunisia following the recent incidents. He said all the joint committees between the two countries will hold their meetings as scheduled and that there is no need for mediation between the two countries, although he appreciates the efforts by certain countries to bring about a rapprochement between the two sides. Referring to Libyan-British relations, At-Turayki said there is nothing new in this context. He said Libya is avoiding any further deterioration and is prepared to improve its relations with London "if Britain stops using its territory as a base for actions hostile to Libya."

Resolution Freezes Relations With Liberia, Zaire

LD231022 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1005 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 23 May (JANA) — In implementation of the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses regarding freezing relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Zaire and Liberia due to the fact that both the latter have restored their relations with the Zionist enemy, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has implemented this resolution and notified the OAU Secretariat General accordingly.

Chernenko Cables al-Qadhdhafi on Africa Day

LD221342 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a cable from Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Konstantin Chernenko on the occasion of Africa Day which falls on 25 May.

Ghana's Rawlings Sends Al-Qadhdhafi Support Message

LD210654 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 May 84

[TEXT] Tripoli, 21 May — The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council in Ghana in which he denounced the cowardly attempt guided by regimes hostile to the Jamahiriyah during which a group of the Muslim Brotherhood clique — the agents of the United States — infiltrated to carry out sabotage against the modern achievements of the Libyan Arab people and assassinate a number of citizens.

Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings in his message to the brother leader affirmed his solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in their courageous opposition to all imperialist and reactionary conspiracies. He affirmed the Libyan people's opposition to and crushing of the hired agents of America had provided the proof that reactionary forces have become increasingly despondent with the passage of time. He expressed the cohesion of the people and the revolution in Ghana with the people of the Jamahiriyah and their great revolution in their confrontation with the enemies and in strengthening the friendship and solidarity between the two friendly nations.

Turkey's Ozdaglar Prepares for Prime Minister's Visit

TA211145 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Minister of State Ismail Ozdaglar, in Libya on an official visit, is continuing his contacts. Ozdaglar met with members of the Libyan Government yesterday at which Turkish-Libyan cooperation was discussed. In addition, work in preparation for Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Libya was carried out at the meetings.

Ozdaglar met with Libyan Agriculture Minister Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah this morning, and they exchanged views on the activities of the Turkish-Libyan joint economic committee whose subcommittees are continuing their activities. Possibilities for increasing cooperation in the fields of commerce, agriculture, and oil are being sought at the subcommittee meetings.

Prime Minister Ozal Arrives

LD221345 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived in Tripoli at noon today leading a large Turkish delegation on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed on arrival by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and others at Tripoli International Airport. Also present were members of the General People's Committee and members of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the secretary and members of the Tripoli Municipality People's Committee, the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Turkey, as well as a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah, and members of the Turkish community in the Jamahiriyah.

Comments at Airport

TA221740 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has left for Libya on an official visit. At Tripoli Airport, Ozal was ceremoniously received by 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, one of Libya's leaders. After the national anthems of the two countries were played, Ozal reviewed the honor guard. In a statement at the airport, Jallud said he was happy to see Ozal and the delegation accompanying him in Libya. Referring to the brotherhood between the Turkish and Libyan peoples, Jallud said that such visits between brothers are very important.

Ozal said that he was very happy to be on Libyan soil once again. Noting that Turkey and Libya have a friendship that dates back in history, Ozal added that this friendship was not only based on feelings but also on cooperation which served the development and prosperity of the two peoples. Ozal said: Turkey and Libya have succeeded in transforming the existing ties of brotherhood between the two peoples into concrete cooperation which serves the interests of both countries. Turkish firms, technicians, and workers have contributed and are continuing to contribute to the great development effort launched under the leadership of Al-Qadhdhafi following the revolution. We Turks are as proud of the services we provide in this country as we would be of those in our own country. Ozal said that they will make contacts during their stay in Libya in order to further develop bilateral cooperation and to eliminate any impediments. He concluded by saying his visit will revive Turkish-Libyan economic cooperation.

PDRY Foreign Minister Received by At-Turayki

LD221347 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] This morning the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met with the PDRY foreign minister who is currently on a visit to the Jamahiriyah within the framework of relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting an agreement in principle was reached on fixing the date and venue of the joint meeting to be held by the General People's Committee of the Jamahiriyah and the PDRY Council of Ministers. The meeting will discuss implementation of economic integration between the two fraternal peoples. A review of the present Arab situation and the development of the

Palestinian issue, as well as international questions of mutual interest, also took place.

Arab People's Congress Secretariat Prepares Program

LD182213 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 18, May 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress has prepared a comprehensive programme of the secretariat's activities during this year including holding seminars, meetings and conferences, especially the international conference for solidarity with the Lebanese Arab people, commemorating the anniversary of Nasserite July revolution, the meeting of the Permanent Secretariat and to stimulate the campaign for popular struggle fund, the meeting of coordination council, holding the Arab-Latin conference and commemorating the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

It is learned from sources of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress that these seminars, meetings and conferences will discuss means of mobilizing capabilities of the Arab nation masses to confront conspiracies of imperialism, Zionism, reactionaryism and all plots of surrender and support the Arab people's struggle and Lebanese national force to escalate armed confrontation against the enemies of the Arab nation and support the Syrian steadfastness and encourage contacts and deepen collaboration with forces of popular rejection of plots of surrender in Egypt, Sudan, Iraq and Somalia and support it with all means.

These meetings and seminars will deal with means of supporting the national movement in Egypt and encouraging political dialogue with them to enable them to escalate struggle against capitulation conspiracies of the Egyptian regime and supporting professional and people's associations and organisations in order to contribute effectively on the jamahir action in face all conspiracies of imperialism, Zionism and reactionaryism and alliance with international liberation movements and socialist countries.

MOROCCO

Jewish Council Head Expresses Gratitude to Hassan

LD102131 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Rabat, 19 May (MAP) — Mr David Ammar, secretary general of the Jewish Communities Council in Morocco, has sent a telegram of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II following the convening of the conference of the Jewish Communities Council in Morocco last week. The telegram said:

Your Majesty, the conference of the Jewish Communities Council held in Rabat on 13 and 14 May 1984 expresses feelings of admiration and esteem and attachment toward Your Majesty.

Our conference, which included Jewish figures from all parts of the world of Moroccan origin and officials from international Jewish organizations, confirms and bears witness to the living reality of coexistence between Muslims and Jews in Morocco. All Jews of Moroccan origin in all parts of the world have expressed firm adherence to the Moroccan throne and loyalty to the spirit of the late King Mohamed V.

The conference was unanimous in its praise for the spirit of tolerance shown by his majesty the king and his majesty's persistent efforts to establish dialogue and peace.

The Jewish Communities Council in Morocco has the honor to express to Your Majesty their deep gratitude for the care you have taken of the members of the Jewish community in Morocco.

We renew our feeling of loyalty to your majesty and our attachment to your person and to the glorious 'Alawite throne, and our affection for His Royal Highness, the heir to the throne, Prince Sidi Mohamed and all the royal family.

Briefs

Moroccan-French Passport Agreement — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that the Moroccan-French agreement connected with movement of persons between the two countries which was to have been in force from 16 January 1984, but was postponed, will be implemented as from 1 June 1984. [Excerpt][Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 84 LD]

SUDAN

Four New Emergency Courts Formed in Khartoum

JN231101 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, May 22 (SUNA) — The president of the republic, Ja'far Numayri, today directed formation of four more emergency courts in the national capital.

The presidential minister for legal affairs; Awad al-Jid Muhammad Ahmad, stated after meeting the president that the four new emergency courts will be formed to offset the suspended court and enhance the work of the functioning eight courts.

An emergency prosecution would also be formed to assume work and raise cases to the emergency courts, and then follow up the verdicts and its propgation by the media.

Republic decrees were expected to be issued tomorrow by the president in this respect, he said.

Eight emergency courts are currently functioning in the national capital out of the nine courts which were formed by the president after the imposition of state of emergency.

The ninth court was suspended by the president for adjourning smuggling case to one month, a matter which was considered as an infringement to aim of declaration of emergency state. [sentence as received]

Numayri Receives Letter of Support From Policemen

JN221553 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May [Date as received] [SUNA) — Police officers, NCO's, and policemen all over the country have pledged allegiance to leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri in accordance with the Koran and the prophet's teachings, asserting their determination to sacrifice, struggle, uphold the word of God, support the oppressed against the oppressor, and spread justice.

This came in a letter the leader president received from the police force today.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis 22 May

JN221916 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 May (SUNA) — The Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman returned here from Tunis today after leading the Sudan delegation to the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers held there last Saturday and Sunday.

Trade Unions Federation Elects New Members

JN201121 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA) — The Central Committee of the Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions unanimously reelected 'Abdallah Nasr Qanawi as president of the federation at the conclusion of its fourth general congress in Khartoum yesterday evening. Muhyi ad-Din Bakhit Fadlallah was unanimously elected as secretary, and Mahjub 'Abd ar-Rahman was also unanimously elected as treasurer. The rest of the members of the Executive Bureau will be elected tomorrow, Monday, at the federation's headquarters.

Congress Recommendations

JN201218 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA) — The fourth general congress of the Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions, which began last Wednesday,ended its meetings last night. The congress made several recommendations and resolutions.

The congress adopted President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's speech at the opening session of the congress, as an approach to be followed by the Trade Union Movement in Sudan. The congress decided that the federation's Executive Committee should carry out its tasks according to the directives contained in the president's speech during its period of office. In its recommendations, the congress announced support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against the Israeli enemy. The congress denounced the dissidence among groups of the Palestinian revolution. It stressed support for the legitimate leadership under the PLO chairman struggler Yasir 'Arafat.

The congress reaffirmed that the Sudanese workers supported national liberation movements all over the world and particularly in southern Africa and Eritrea.

The congress expressed its support for the integration charter between the peoples of the Nile Valley which will lead toward achieving the aspirations of the two peoples. It also expressed support for the brothers in Iraq in their holy war agaisnt the Persian enemy. It expressed the Sudanese workers' readiness to defend the Arab homeland and Iraq and called on Arab and Islamic countries to stand by the Iraqi people in their just war against the Iranian enemy.

The congress praised the People's Armed Forces and their vanguard role in defending the territory and soil of the homeland. The congress recommended rapid execution of the amendments to some labor laws, especially those pertaining to social security, insurance benefits, and the introduction of an unemployment insurance system.

The congress denounced the measures taken by the World Federation of Trade Unions in Prague. It called on the member organizations in this federation to reassess the conduct of the leadership, especially pertaining to its infiltration by some Sudanese mercenaries, such as Ibrahim Zakariya, who had emigrated from the country for their own personal interests. The congress also denounced the irresponsible actions of the General Secretariat of the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions, which has deliberately violated its Constitution in the interests of Libya and Syria by exploiting the office of secretary general which is occupied by a Libyan and the Syrian base of the federation in Damascus. The congress praised the good relations with Egypt's Trade Union Federation. It expressed support for the formation of a Nile Valley Trade Union Federation. The congress also recommended action to bring the Egyptian federation back to the International Workers Federation.

TUNISIA

Joint Communique Issued on Senegalese Leader's Visit

AB181615 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 17 May 84

["Joint Communique" issued at the end of the visit by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to Tunisia, from 14 to 17 May 1984]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of the supreme combatant, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia and of his wife, His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal and his wife, paid an official visit to Tunisia from 14 to 17 May. This visit falls within the framework of the fraternal relations existing between the Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Senegal, and serves to strengthen the historic ties that unite the two brotherly peoples. The Republic of Tunisia accorded the president and his delegation a very warm reception commensurate with the exemplary cooperation relations existing between the two countries. This visit gave the two heads of state the opportunity to renew their mutual esteem and traditional friendship in an atmosphere of solidarity and fraternity. The Senegalese head of state and the Tunisian leader held important discussions on the development of their bilateral relations, and on current issues in Africa and the world. The president held lengthy discussions with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and the minister of interior. The two sides expressed identical viewpoints on most of the issues discussed, and stressed the need to consolidate their bilateral cooperation. The two parties expressed satisfaction with the positive developments of the bilateral relations, the continuous development of the cooperation between their two countries which have been made possible by the numerous meetings and exchange of visits between the authorities of the two countries. They reaffirmed their common determination to do everything to diversify and strengthen this cooperation, commensurate with the privileged political relations existing between the two countries.

In this respect, they adopted measures to will help revitalize relations in trade, economy, industry, agriculture, and tourism. They also decided to broaden the list provided under the existing trade arrangement. The two parties decided to set up in Dakar a Tunisian-Senegalese Bank for Trade, Development, and Investment. They also agreed to set up a joint company for foreign trade, and to find solutions to the problems of [word indistinct] to facilitate the trade development in this sector.

The two parties also agreed to implement the project for industrial cooperation that was planned during the joing commission's first meeting, while drawing up other projects from time to time. They decided to broaden their cooperation in the fisheries sector, and to set up a joint company to this effect. They agreed to develop their cooperation in the tourism industry, and to set up this joint enterprise within a bilateral framework, rather than a triangular one. A joint action will be undertaken in the sector of small- and medium-scale industries, of which the National Company for Studies and Industrial Promotion, and the Agency for the Promotion of Investments will be the institutional instruments.

The two parties expressed satisfaction with the agreement signed between the (?Tulinas) company of Tunisia and the CIB [expansion unknown] company of Senegal on the construction of an animal feed factory with the production capacity of 80,000 tons a year. In this connection, to show its appreciation for the experience and technical know-how of the Tunisian officials, the Senegalese party expressed hope that the two countries will soon set up an exchange program for training and consultations between Senegalese and Tunisian officials. The Tunisian side stated its readiness to assist the Senegalese in the technological field, especially engineering and food preservation.

Finally, the two parties signed the following agreements: a customs agreement aimed at preventing double taxation, and an agreement on the promotion and protection of investments. Reviewing the world situation, the two parties expressed a common concern and identical viewpoints on the serious problems, tense areas, and wars in the world.

On Africa, the two heads of state voiced their determination to pursue their action in favor of stability and cohesion on the African Continent. They reaffirmed their indestructible support for the liberation struggle waged by the people of Namibia and South Africa under the guidance of their respective movements, the SWAPO, the ANC, and the Pan-African Congress. The two delegations expressed their understanding for the efforts exerted to achieve detente and peace in southern Africa, and they wished to see the efforts lead to the attainment of independence in Namibia, the disappearance of apartheid and the safeguard of the fundamental interests of all peoples in the region. On the situation in the northwestern part of Africa, they hoped that the Western Saharan conflict would see an end with the implementation of the resolutions of the 19th OAU summit which will also help restore a climate of harmony and beneficial cooperation for the future of the countries in the region. They reaffirmed their attachment to the OAU, which is an irreplaceable framework for consultations, and a privileged instrument for cooperation among African countries.

On Chad, the two countries reviewed efforts being made by the OAU to solve the crisis facing this brotherly country and expressed the hope that the people of Chad would, through national reconciliation and noninterference by foreigners, find its unity and cohesion. The two delegations accorded much attention to Middle East problems and reaffirmed their conviction that a just and lasting peace in this region can only be achieved through the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. On Arab-African cooperation, to which Tunisia and Senegal are especially attached, the two delegations stressed the need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation between Africans and Arabs who are united by history and civilization, and who nurture the same hope for a true and continuous cooperation in order to have a better future. They expressed satisfaction with the coming meeting of the seventh ministerial session on Afro-Arab cooperation, and hoped that this meeting will achieve positive results for the benefit of the African and Arab peoples.

They reaffirmed their concern over the increasing indebtedness of developing countries, and they expressed the hope to see the international community devote more time to this issue and find a more appropriate solution to a new philosophy of international cooperation based on increased interdependence of nations. The two parties also brought up the issue of drought, which has hit some African countries, especially those of the Sahel, and expressed their desire to do everything to fight this plague. In this regard, President Habib Bourguiba hailed the historic initiative of his brother and friend, President Abdou Diouf, to organize in Dakar a July conference of the ministers in charge of environmental protection and drought control of the member countries of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, and those of the Maghreb countries and Sudan. Tunisia agreed to send a high-level delegation to this meeting, and also decided to assist Senegal in its drought-control efforts and in the rehabilitation of arid lands.

President Abdou Diouf and his wife extended an invitation to President Habib Bourguiba and his wife to pay an official visit to Senegal. This invitation was accepted with much pleasure. The date of the visit will be fixed later by diplomatic means.

DJIBOUTI

President Receives Somali Military Delegation

EA182138 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Hassan Gouled Aptidon, Republic of Djibouti president, received the visiting Somali military delegation in Arta this morning, led by General Muhammad Hashi Gani, who was accompanied on his courtesy call by Commander Omar Barre, deputy commander of the Djibouti Armed Forces, and by Abdi Nur, SDR ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti. The SDR military delegation, on a 4-day friendly visit to the Republic of Djibouti, is due to leave for home tomorrow morning.

ETHIOPIA

Envoy Terms EPLF Claim on Attack 'Propoganda'

NC231346 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Nairobi, May 23 (AFP) — Ethiopia's ambassador to Kenya, Mengiste Desta, denied here today that Asmara airport had been attacked by Eritrean guerrillas, as claimed by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) two days ago.

Questioned by journalists, the ambassador simply said there had been "no attack" in the capital of the northern Ethiopian province. The EPLF said it had destroyed more than 30 Ethiopian Air Force aircraft in the attack during Sunday night.

The ambassador said the EPLF statement, issued in Paris on Monday, was "propaganda", but he refused to comment further.

Mengistu Addresses Congress on Party Formation

EA211326 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] A seminar [at the Yekatit-66 Political School] to prepare for the intiation of steps for convening a congress to establish the Ethiopian Workers Party [EWP], and meetings of the EWP to embrace the representation of all levels from COPWE District, and basic organizations from every part of Ethiopia, opened today. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and COPWE chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, gave directives to the participants.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu stressed in his address that the implementation of various COPWE regulations and directives was fundamental to the transition from COPWE to the EWP. Accordingly, he said, the correct implementation of these directives constitutes a decisive first step toward [words indistinct] the achievement of our aim to establish the party. Comrade Mengistu said that a detailed and thorough knowledge of the contents of the documents and directives is essential to ensure their proper implementation: To make sure of this is one of the tasks of the EWP formation meetings to be held at all levels.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu stressed that a strong party could not be formed without strong basic organizations: A party that lacks them resembles a castle in the air. Comrade Chairman Mengistu went on to point out that a vanguard party must exist in tandem with its basic organizations. The latter, which are the life blood of a revolutionary party, exist widely among the working people in production, services, housing, defense, and the battlefield. It is they which reflect the party's vanguard nature and constitute important forces for the implementation of the course of party policy and mobilization of the working people and revolutionary soldiers.

Cuban Health Minister Departs for Home

EA202108 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 May 84

[Summary] Cuban Minister of Health Sergio del Valle today left for home after attending the fifth joint economic, scientific, and technical cooperation commission meeting. He pointed out that his stay in the country and the activities carried out with his Ethiopian counterparts were fruitful in strengthening the existing relations between the two countries.

Seminar Held To Discuss Party Basic Documents

EA220929 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A 2-day seminar to discuss basic Ethiopian Workers Party draft documents opened today at the Central Command's Political Department Hall.

The seminar, being attended by political workers and representatives of basic organizations of Armed Forces from various regional brigades, was opened by Comrade Gebreyes Wolde Hana, head of the Political Department of the Armed Forces of Revolutionary Ethiopia and member of the COPWE Central Committee.

Comrade Brigadier General Gebreyes Wolde Hana pointed out that at this decisive time, when we are trying to structure our party, the organization of revolutionary forces by the party is important.

KENYA

Zambia's Kaunda Calls for Units 'To Save' OAU

EA202113 Nairobi KNA in English 1629 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Nairobi May 20 — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said in Nairobi today that the differences which had arisen in the O.A.U. in recent years were a threat to the unity of African continent. President Kaunda said the O.A.U. was a torch-bearer for African aspirations, the voice of Africa, and the uniting factor in Africa, besides being the force behind the total liberation of Africa, and the continent's only shield against external enemies and interferences.

He said if African countries allowed themselves to be divided and used, then African countries will find themselves serving the interests of the outside forces which interfered with their affairs. The Zambian president said African countries must maintain the highest degree of unity in order to save the O.A.U. from collapsing.

President Kaunda paid glowing tribute to President Moi for having shouldered the chairmanship of O.A.U. for two years when the organisation had so many problems which threatened its existence. He said Kenya and Zambia were founder members of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), which had paved way for regional economic and trade cooperation in east, central, and southern Africa. He said the PTA had brought new developments in the region and it was a clear manifestation of African seriousness and determination to achieve regional cooperation.

President Kaunda, who was speaking at the new premises of the Zambian High Commission in Nairobi, when he opened the building today, also hailed President Moi for his untiring efforts in the establishment of the PTA and said he hoped that the countries covered by the PTA region which had not become members, will join without delay.

The Zambian president hailed the bilateral cooperation between Kenya and Zambia. He said the good relations between the two countries were a living testimony of south-south cooperation to which the two countries were committed.

SOMALIA

High-Level Somali Front Delegation Returns From Tour

EA221103 Clandestine Radio Halgan in Somali
to Somalia 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A large delegation led by Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad, chairman of the Executive Committee of the DFSS Central Committee, has returned to the Front's central headquarters after completing visits to foreign countries. The high-level DFSS delegation left 25 April 1984 for official visits to countries with ties of friendly cooperation with the DFSS.

In interviews at the Front's headquarters, the high-level delegation, led by DFSS Chairman Col Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad, said it achieved success, and that understandings were reached on all issues discussed. The issues discussed included the situation in the Middle East, the chaos in the Gulf, and the Horn of Africa, where dictator Siad Barre has given military bases to foreign powers (?to) stifle the Somali peoples' struggle against his imperialist puppet (?regime).

The DFSS delegation led by Col Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad added that leaders of the countries visited, and the DFSS held similar views on the Somali peoples' struggle spearheaded by the DFSS to save itself from Siad.

Amendment Banning Kat Made More Stringent

EA182150 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
0430 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Council of Ministers last night held an ordinary session, chaired by Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, SDR president. The meeting ratified two articles of the SFR Law, amending the kat [catha edulis] ban law and the powers of the country's national and regional courts to hear relevant cases.

The kat law ban amendment was necessitated by events during the year since the introduction of the law banning the consumption, chewing, transportation, sale, and cultivation of kat in the SDR. The new law closes all the loopholes that enabled kat traffickers to import kat, and increases the severity of penalties. According to the new law, any civil servant found in possession of kat will be automatically dismissed without benefits. He will also forfeit all pension and other rights he might have accrued during his service. By authorizing regional courts to hear kat and other drug cases, the law has increased the severity of the penalties which were applicable under the earlier articles.

The SDR Council of Ministers also agreed that new and vigourous action would be taken against all still involved in kat trade. Moreover, all who might be involved in kat trade will receive the statutory penalties without fear or favor.

The two articles will become law with effect from 18 May 1984 and provide as follows:

1. Article 4 of the Kat Ban Law enacted on 13 April 1983 has been amended as follows:

(i) The importation, cultivation, and chewing of kat has been banned. Any person importing or assisting in the importation of or buying, selling, or acting as intermediary in the buying or selling of kat will be liable for 3 to 15 years imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 to 100,000 or 200,000 Somali shillings.

The means used for the importation and transportation of kat will be confiscated together with their kat consignments, subject to the provision that confiscation will be applied only if the owner or his agent carried the kat knowingly.

Any person in whose house or premises for which he is responsible kat is found or chewed will be liable for a fine of 10,000 to 50,000 Somali shillings, subject to the provision that he knew of the existence of the kat and permitted the presence and chewing of the kat in those premises. The law defines such an individual as the resident of the house when the crime was committed, who permitted the possession and the chewing of the kat; he may be owner, tenant, agent,or any person in charge of the premises. Premises are defined as residential houses, business premises, and any other private places for an individual or groups of individuals.

Cultivating kat in the country is prohibited.

Any person who cultivates kat in the country or does not destroy the kat plants already growing before the introduction of this law shall be liable for 3 to 15 years imprisonment and a fine ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 Somali shillings, and the kat will be burned.

2. In addition to the provisions of Article 3 of the law enacted on 13 April 1983, any person found possessing or chewing kat shall be liable for 1 to 5 years imprisonment, and a fine ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 Somali shillings. Second offenders will be liable for 3 to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of 30,000 to 100,000 Somali shillings. Any first offender contravening the kat law may pay a fine equivalent to 100 Somali shillings per day of his term of imprisonment.

Any person charged with the enforcement of this law who condones, facilitates, or participates in the importation, cultivation, sale, possession, or chewing of kat, or who fails in any way to check these crimes, shall be liable for dismissal without benefits, pensions, or any other rights he might have accrued during his service. This applies to all government servants, including members of the Armed Forces or any other persons employed by the state and charged with enforcing this law.

3. Thirty percent of all the monies received from fines and payment of the 100 Somali shillings per day fines will be paid out as rewards at the following rates:

The informer will get a 10 percent reward; the arresting officer 7 percent; investigating officer 3 percent; employees of the law courts 5 percent; the District Development Fund 5 percent. The informer must be given his reward immediately after the judge has sentenced the accused. If there is no informer, the arresting officer will receive 10 percent.

The eradication of kat in the country is the sacred duty of the state and people of Somalia. The nation shall not be held liable or pay compensation for problems or damage resulting from the actions of anyone obstructing the enforcement of the Kat Ban Law, and the arrest of persons breaking this law.

4. The SDR national and regional courts are empowered to hear these cases.

TANZANIA

Antinuclear Statement Issued by Nyerere, Others

EA221633 Nairobi KNA in English 1217 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam KNA: Anti-nuclear weapons joint statement issued by leaders of six nations, has warned here that humankind survival was increasingly in jeopardy because the world hanged in balanced between war and peace, reports SHIHATA [TANZANIAN NEWS AGENCY].

It cautioned that the possibility of nuclear holocaust increased while warning time decreased, and the weapons become swifter, more accurate, and deadly, apparently to cause a global suicide.

A State House statement made available to SHIHATA today, is an outcome of a joint pursuit for peace by six leaders including Tanzania's President Julius Nyerere, and Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado of Mexico.

Others are the current chairperson of the Non-aligned Movement, India's prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of Greece Andreas Papandreou, Olof Palme of Sweden and Argentine President Raoul Alfonsin.

They said in the statement that the escalation of arms race, the rise in international tensions and the lack of constructive dialogue among nuclear weapons states had increased the risk of nuclear war.

They said the war could bring death to all peoples even by using part of the present stockpiles of nuclear arsenal.

"As leaders of nations, the people we represent are no less threatened by nuclear war than the citizens of the nuclear weapons state," they said.

As members of the United Nations, "we have a commitment to take constructive action toward the halting of nuclear arms race," the leaders said in the statement.

The statement urged that, in order to reach any achievement to peace, the United States, the Soviet Union, as well as Britain, France, and China, should halt the production and testing of nuclear weapons.

The six leaders said further that although it was primarily the responsibility of nuclear weapons states to prevent a nuclear war danger, the matter was too important to be left to these states alone, they observed.

"We come from different parts of the world, with differences in religion, culture, and political systems but we are united in this conviction that there must not be another world war," they said.

CAMEROON

First Session of Parliament To Begin 1 June

AB222035 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The first ordinary session of parliament for the 1984-85 legislative year has been convened for 1 June. A release from the National Assembly said today that the session would begin at 1600 under the chairmanship of the president of the National Assembly.

CHAD

French Have Stopped 'Aggressor From North'

AB181130 Paris AFP in French 1017 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 May (AFP) — The 3,000 men of the French Forces in Chad have stopped "the aggressor from the north" and made it possible for President Hissein Habre's Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) to develop their fighting capacity, General Jean Poli declared on Thursday. General Yves Bechu is to succeed Gen Poli as the commander of the French contingent. Speaking during a reception given at his departure, Gen Poli affirmed that the French forces in Chad to support the Ndjamena Government against the rebellion of former President Goukouni Oueddei, supported by Libya have "dissuaded the enemy and sowed doubt in his ranks." According to the former commander, "Operation Manta," a "combat force and factor of peace," constitutes a sanitary cordon which enabled the resumption of economic and political activities in the country.

For his part, Rotouang Yoma, Chadian Defense Minister recalled during a ceremony in honor of Gen Poli on Wednesday the "difficult circumstances" which compelled Chad to ask for the military assistance of France. "The result of the French military presence in Chad is positive despite the threats still facing the country," he said. The minister wished for increased French military assistance, and hoped that with Gen Bechu, "Operation Manta" will become "very operational and vigilant."

Gen Poli, who will leave the Chad on Saturday, was appointed commander of the French Forces last August at the height of the fighting between the government forces and the forces of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT], supported by Libya.

Gen Bechu arrived in Ndjamema last Monday.

Bardai Radio Comments on Gambari's Trip to Libya

AB212024 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Ibrahim Gambari, Nigerian foreign minister, who arrived in Tripoli last Thursday, delivered a message from General Muhammadu Buhari, the Nigerian head of state. This message, like the (?exchange of speeches) between the Nigerian envoy and the Libyan authorities, brought out the salient points about the Chadian conflict [words indistinct] between the departure of Ibrahim Gambari for Tripoli, 8 days after that of the head of Ndjamena group.

On his arrival in Tripoli, the man in charge of Nigerian foreign affairs expressed the budding solidarity of his country toward Libya in the face of imperialist plots against the Jamahiriyah. Thus, the Nigerian foreign minister's statement constitutes a straight denial of fantastic allegations by a commentator of Radio France International. In fact, contrary to the viewpoint of Western imperialism, a number of African states understand the need to strengthen horizontal solidarity in order to foil the divisionist maneuvers of imperialist and reactionary forces. Yesterday, like today the current of pan-African solidarity in the economic, political and cultural fields, should be asserted in concrete terms in order to make our continent a united, solid, anti-imperialist one, and turn it toward continued progress.

Concerning the Chadian problem and the prospects for a peaceful settlement, the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] has never ceased to repeat that the OAU is the most competent body for holding any possible meeting on national reconciliation in Chad. Just as the Western countries want to come together to use force and have a hold on the developing countries of the world, so is it quite legitimate for African countries to consult one another regularly on matters of mutual interest. Recent African history shows that any conflict between African countries, or within any African country only benefits our common enemies. There is no dispute among the countries of our continent, but the imperialist powers are trying to artificially create obstacles, and fan minor conflicts in order to strengthen their grip on our respective countries. If we take examples in our region, it is clear that the imperialist's interest does not lie in bringing about the best of relations between African regional powers, but rather lies in their antagonism. But to African patriots and determined militants of pan-Africanism dear to Kwame Nkrumah, Patrie Lumumba, Barthelemy Boganda, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, the greatness of Africa lies in active solidarity among its nations.

Release of Prisoners in Ndjamena Questioned

AB222115 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 22 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] One hundred and fifty so-called political prisoners released in Ndjamena — this rather strange piece of news was recently trumpeted by certain well-known foreign radio stations. This news was even described as a detente gesture in the diplomatic efforts being made to find a peaceful solution to the Chadian conflict; very well then!

While we acknowledge this news given by the Ndjamena group, we however ask a certain number of questions about the procedure used in releasing these prisoners, whose political and individual identities we still do not know. Several foreign radio stations, on their part, find it strange that the list of persons released was not broadcast. Some foreign observers, including those sympathetic to the FAN, did not hesitate to express their surprise. The astonishment of some of our colleagues stems from the fact that up until now the FAN claimed not to have any prisoners. Whatever the case may be, what attracts our attention tonight is not so much the news itself, but the procedure used in arriving at that piece of news.

In fact, everybody knows that Chad is engaged in a civil war. During the various battles, the two opposing parties would naturally have taken some prisoners. Thus, on the GUNT side, we have broadcast the fact that more than 1,000 FAN prisoners were captured between Gouro and Abeche, passing through Ounianga, Faya-Largeau, and Fada. It will be recalled also that quite recently, during the operations victoriously conducted by our commandos at Ziguey and Mao, enemy soldiers were captured as well as some Belgians of the Doctors Without Frontiers organization, who were ultimately released to their country. As for the hundreds of FAN soldiers captured by our forces, most of them have been reeducated and integrated into the National Liberation Army [ANL] in accordance with the promise made at the time by the Comrade President of the GUNT, Goukouni Oueddei. It should also be recalled that some officers of the International Red Cross, operating within the areas liberated by the GUNT, had the occasion to visit some of these prisoners.

To come back to the release of prisoners in Ndjamena, we wonder why the Ndjamena clique did not find it necessary to act that way? Did the Ndjamena clique prefer to create a surprise effect by unilaterally bringing out from its dungeons 150 Chadian citizens?

Consequently, does not this action of the Ndjamena clique, which is being interpreted as a gesture of atonement and detente, clearly taking on the form of a gross propaganda gambit? Indeed, is it not right to think from this action, for instance, that the FAN deliberately wants either to win back the fighting patriots, or to sow confusion in the minds of GUNT supporters. In the same way, can the measures taken by the neocolonial administration not be interpreted as a demagogic initiative for winning friends, just as the same initiative which had led the FAN envoys on the road to Brazzaville, Paris, Cameroon, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, and so on. Or yet still, the sending of a delegation of the FAN Commanding Council to some areas of the country to win back the supporters of the GUNT. Or is it a matter of mystifying the international and national opinion? We are waiting for answers to these questions, just as we are still waiting for the list of names of those released on 19 May.

GUNT Rejects Mobutu's Reconciliatory Role

AB212106 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mobutu Sese Seko, the Zairian dictator, has called for a peaceful solution to the Chadian conflict. Like President Bongo of Gabon a few days ago, the marshal-dictator also proposed to organize a roundtable conference for Chadians to settle their crisis.

But within what specific political, geographical or organizational framework does this initiative fall? President Mobutu did not specify this, but simply said that the reconciliation should be organized around legitimacy. To which one, among the parties in conflict, does Mobutu attribute this legitimacy? To the Chadian people's executioner installed in Ndjamena by the imperialists or to the GUNT, the embodiment of a national consensus set up by the Lagos accord? In any case, the legitimacy the Zairian head of state is talking about can only come from GUNT.

(?We hope that) the former sergeant of the Belgian colonial Army would withdraw his soldiers from Chad before trying to seek a peaceful national reconciliation in Chad. Since one cannot be a judge in one's own case, Mobutu cannot pretend to play any reconciliatory role between himself and his opponents. Can Mobutu's crocodile tears move the Chadians?

The GUNT will never finish repeating, that conscious of the sufferings endured by the Chadian people, it has shown many times its readiness for negotiations. However, we want to make it clear to that CIA agent president that he should first of all try to settle his many internal problems before doing anything for the courageous Chadian people, who only know him too well.

CONGO

'General Cooperation' Pact Signed With Madagascar

AB182234 Dakar PANA in French 1315 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 18 May (ACI/PANA) — Congo and Madagascar signed a general cooperation agreement on Thursday at the end of the 48-hour visit to Congo by Jean Bemananjara, the Malagasy minister of foreign affairs. A joint high cooperation commission that will meet every 2 years has been set up to see to the application of this agreement, which is of unlimited duration.

The general cooperation agreement between the two countries covers all areas of common interest, such as the economic, technical, cultural, and social science areas. The agreement provides for cooperation in the implementation of joint pre-investment studies in all branches of activity according to needs.

Also, in a joint communique issued in the Congolese capital on Thursday, the Congolese and Malagasy ministers of foreign affairs launched an appeal to the OAU member states to be more understanding and enable the SDAR to find its place within the pan-African organization.

They also launched an urgent appeal to all parties concerned in Chad to resolutely engage themselves on the path of negotiation without external interference with a view to achieving reconciliation and national unity.

With regard to the international situation that has been aggravated by the intensification of the arms race, the Congolese and Malagasy ministers felt that this situation requires increased efforts by the superpowers in order to avoid a nuclear world war.

GABON

Regional Conference Beset by Difficulties

AB230650 Paris AFP in English 0420 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Libreville, May 23 (AFP) — Only eight of the 25 countries in the ministerial conference of West and Central African states have ratified its basic texts, according to sources at a special two-day meeting of the body held here early this week. Delegates asked the tardy members to rectify the situation so that the organisation could be constituted on a proper legal footing.

Host Gabon's Second Deputy Premier Etienne Guy Mouvagha told the closing session that there was growing pessimism about problems threatening the very existence of the ministerial conference. The special meeting had, however come up with concrete and positive measures to redress that situation, he said.

In a bid to lighten the financial difficulties besetting the grouping, delegates recommended a reduction in the bases for calculating members' contributions set by a previous special meeting. A budget of 175 million cfa francs (400 to the dollar) was set for 1984-85. It was agreed that the permanent secretariat be kept to no more than 40 staff as an economy measure.

The conference set up a solidarity, guarantees and investment fund. Secretary-General John Walla said it ought to breathe new life into the organisation.

SWAPO's Nujoma Speaks to Press on Namibia

AB211644 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1230 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] SWAPO President Sam Nujoma will leave Libreville shortly, after 3 days in the Gabonese capital. During his stay, he held talks with local officials, in particular with President Omar Bongo. This morning, at the Gabonese Foreign Ministry, Mr Nujoma met the press. He reaffirmed his determination to fight until Namibia achieves its independence. He again called on the international community to assist his movement and so on. Here is an excerpt from Sam Nujoma's news conference:

[Begin recording in English fading into French translation] The struggle for the liberation of Namibia has reached a very critical stage after 18 years of fierce battle, during which many of our fighters — men and women — lost their lives. Now, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but there are still many obstacles to surmount on our path, that prevent us from getting to the end of our struggle, the end of the process of attaining our independence. These obstacles have been created in Namibia — a UN administered territory — by the South African colonial regime. Namibia cannot become independent as long as it is (?ruled) by South Africa. South Africa is always seeking excuses and pretexts in order not to grant Namibia its independence.

Since the adoption of Resolution 435 in September 1978, South Africa has been accusing the United Nations of partiality. We should realize however that South Africa has its major allies and friends — in particular the United States, France, Great Britain, and others — that are members of this organization. Some of them are even permanent members and, on the basis of this, they can use their veto power in case any action is taken against the white minority in Namibia. One cannot understand why there should be any delay in granting Namibia its independence. [end recording]

RWANDA

Party Leader Returns From Romanian Visit

EA220913 Kigali Domestic Service in French
1115 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] The MRND [National Revolutionary Movement for Development] secretary general, Militant Bonaventure Habimana, returned to Kigali this morning after an official friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania at the invitation of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee. Militant Bonaventure Habimana said he delivered a friendly message from President Habyarimana to his Romanian counterpart, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu.

[Begin Habimana recording] The ruling Romanian party will assist our party in propaganda, particularly in logistical support. As for future prospects, these areas are agreed upon in the general draft treaty signed [word indistinct] very precise, and immediate aid in the area I have just mentioned. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Mobutu Speaks at Opening of MPR Congress

AB181340 Paris AFP in French 0729 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 May (AFP) — Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko announced on Wednesday that those responsible for the explosion that damaged radio and television installations, and part of the Kinshasa Central Post Office in March, have all been arrested. He named a radio and television service sports journalist as the ringleader at the opening of the second extraordinary Congress of the MPR, the only party, which is expected to approve his unopposed candidacy in the coming presidential elections in November. The MPR Congress, which is being attended by 3,300 delegates from all over the country, is to end on Sunday.

President Mobutu paid homage to "the spirit of sacrifice of the Zairian people," and talked at length about the economic situation in the country. He expressed satisfaction with the "very good" results achieved by the end of 1983 thanks to the strict appplication of the "stringent, even unpopular measures" adopted in September on the recommendation of the IMF, which, he said, will give Zaire $360 million in 1984 on a quarterly basis.

Field Marshal Mobutu, who described himself as a "candidate of unity" and not an unopposed candidate, affirmed that his country is only facing economic and social problems, not a political conflicts. The president denied reports "by a foreign press" on the existence of a conflict between the church and the state.

Speaking on Zaire's approval of the agreements signed between some southern African countries and Pretoria, Field Marshal Mobutu said this does not constitute neutrality or approval by the African Continent of South Africa's apartheid policy.

On Chad, the president recalled that he had sent troops there to respond to "the distressing call of a victim whose sovereignty was threatened" and that he encourages the policy of reconciliation "through legitimacy." He stressed that the Chadians themselves must decide on the form of their institutions. On its part, Zaire will continue to fulfill its commitments to Chad, and help it organize itself to ensure its defense, he added.

Concerning the Western Sahara, Zaire will make every effort in favor of the organization of the referendum decided upon by the OAU, President Mobutu pointed out.

Mobutu Critical of Brussel-Based Opponents

AB211810 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 21 May 84

[By Jean Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Kinshasa, May 21 (AFP) — Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko has strongly criticised Brussels-based opponents of his regime accused of carrying out a bomb attack that killed two people in the Zairean capital in March. Journalist Kianzila El Busi, who is alleged to have planted the bomb at the headquarters of the national radio in the city centre, was paraded before a special meeting of Zaire's sole legal political party, held last week to endorse Marshal Mobutu as sole candidate at the presidential elections in July.

Speaking to foreign reporters yesterday, Marshal Mobutu said the journalist, who worked for the radio, had been acting on behalf of "those bastards in Brussels," a reference to the exiled Zairian opposition which operates from the capital of the former colonial power. The president added that inquiries into the bomb attack were still going on and Zaire would eventually track down all those involved. This was the first time since the bombing that the Zairian leader had spoken out in public against his opponents in Brussels.

Authoritative sources here say that he is to make an official visit to Brussels in July. The question of the opposition is likely to be high on the agenda at his talks with Belgian leaders.

Marshal Mobutu, who has held power since 1965, told the reporters: "We have no complexes about our former colonisers and we do not understand the almost daily criticisms made about Zaire from Belgian territory." He said Libya was behind an explosives attack which damaged part of Kinshasa airport in January, but gave no details of a third attack, carried out on the central post office almost at the same time as the radio bombing.

In reply to his critics, who accuse him of maintaining a "dictatorship" in Zaire, the president said his country had been evolving for more than 20 years in an atmosphere of "peace and democracy." Marshal Mobutu said he had not had any new prisons built since coming to power and that he was more concerned than ever about "human dignity" in Zaire.

Sources close to the president said the elections, originally to have been held in November, were brought forward to shorten the electoral campaign and to allow the authoritives "to efficiently continue their task of bringing about economic recovery."

(In Brussels today, former Zairean Prime Minister Nguza Karl-I-Bond, now a member of the opposition, again denied a report by the Zairean news agency AZAP, that he had met Marshal Mobutu in Paris on April 17. He told the news agency BELGA that he had been in Paris with his wife on April 15, but had returned to Brussels the same evening, before the Zairian leader arrived in France. If he did meet the president, he would not do so in secret, the former prime minister added.)

More Mobutu Comment on Policies

AB211117 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0945 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Nsele, 21 May (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko on Sunday granted an important interview on board *M.S. Kamanyola* [presidential boat] to French journalists who had come to cover the deliberations of the MPR second extraordinary congress at Nsele. During the interview he commented on Zaire's democratic experience, gave details on the case of the traitor Kianzila el Busi, expressed concern over the prospects for the upcoming OAU summit, and pledged the strengthening of cooperation relations between his country and France.

Marshal Mobutu stated: Since 24 November 1965, Zaire has been carrying out an extraordinary experiment in democracy, a demonstration of which was given at the last party congress. During the congress, the representatives of the national active elements exercised their sovereignty, and imposed changes in the election time table by reducing the length of the electoral campaign.

The other institutions of the party-state must abide by this decision, and this is just what is being done. The participants in the congress must have realized that as a candidate Mobutu enjoys the full trust of the people, and there is therefore no need to uselessly prolong the electoral campaign, as if militants were yet to be convinced.

The leader noted, however, that the ceremony marking the inauguration of the president will be held as scheduled on 5 December 1984. On this occasion, he will make a nationwide speech to take stock of the state of the nation in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, because his current tenure of office will expire at midnight on 4 December 1984.

Is Mobutu tired of power, or is he tempted by the former Cameroonian head of state's example?

I am in perfect physical and mental health, the father of the nation answered before reaffirming that Zaire follows nobody else's example. Its people can organize themselves, and they are engaged in their own exciting experiment. They have drawn lessons from the dark years of chaos, anarchy, violence, and hatred of the years 1960-65.

Following the lessons, he has decided on and launched a specifically Zairean democratic experiment, which enabled him to achieve the country's unity, to build a nation whose citizens live in peace within its borders, and in mutual understanding with its neighbors. Thanks to this feeling of safety, its citizens are enthusiastically devoted to developmental tasks wherever duty calls, all over the national territory, without fear.

The leader made a point of observing rightly that this was unthinkable before the advent of the second republic. Zaire is Zaire. We are in our country. We will do what suits us. In the West, you feel our action is undemocratic because we are unwilling to copy you in a servile way. We have the right to be different, the head of state emphasized.

On the economic front, the MPR founding chairman reaffirmed the choice of the liberal economy underway in Zaire, but he specified that this new trend is not tantamount to the death of the state, which will continue its supervisory role aimed at avoiding anarchy. He also stated that the experiment in joint ventures will be maintained.

In this regard, he confirmed the existence of substantial oil deposits in the country and announced that he would make public the final results of the oil exploration exercise at his inauguration.

The head of state also confirmed the upward trend in mining and agricultural production.

Commenting on the Kianzila el Busi case, he said this terrorist is an ally of the Lumumba sons' band. Here is an embittered man who acted to obtain a car and a house. The leader did not make any further revelations so as not to divulge the secrets of the investigations underway. However, he added that two distinct groups were imvolved in the bombing operations. The bomb that exploded at Njili Airport was the handiwork of terrorists guided by Tripoli. All these groups will be exposed, he assured.

Concerning the alleged conflict between the state and the Catholic church, the leader formally accused the Western press agencies of fabricating this dispute out of an article that forms part of a series meant to educate the various socio-professional militant groups on the current electoral campaign.

Moreover, Cardinal Malula, who invited the head of state to preside over his consecration anniversary, had already denied the existence of the acclaimed pastoral letter, which is a downright fabrication of the Western media.

Reverting to more encouraging issues, the father of the nation declared that cooperation relations between Zaire and France have been strengthened. This is demonstrated by the fact that from the economic point of view, France now occupies the second position — before the United States and after Belgium — on the list of Zaire's partners, whereas some few years back, it was seventh. Speaking on the prospects for the next OAU summit, he restated his faith in this organization and urged his fellow heads of state to do all in their power to rescue this vital body, in the interest of Africa.

However, he expressed his fears for seeing the next meeting end in confusion because, here and there, one can hear that opposition is building up against the holding of this summit in Addis Ababa. What is important is for this summit to be held whereever there is the maximum chance of success.

Questioned on the presence of Zairean troops in Chad, the leader recalled that they are there at Ndjamena's request. Their presence there has nothing in common with that of the French contingent or the Libyan forces. Each group came on its own, and if we should withdraw, we will organize ourselves.

What of relations between Zaire and Belgium ?

On the Zairean side, there is no show of complex with respect to the former colonial power. Unfortunately, this is not the case with Belgium, which is a bit over-concerned with Zaire, as though the latter were still its colony.

Concerning the plight of the 13 former parliamentarians, the head of state gave some interesting details. They were only 12; the 13th person has mended his ways. Out of the 12, five broke their solidarity and returned to the fold, while the remaining seven wanted to show off by setting conditions, as though they had the right.

BENIN

President Kerekou Receives Cuban, SDAR Envoys

AB190627 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] Our great comrade in struggle, Comrade President Mathieu Kerekou, today received in audience Their Excellencies Carlos (Stillo), the Cuban ambassador, and Brother (Ouadadi Ahmed al-Haiba), the SDAR ambassador. The talks the Cuban diplomat held with the president of the republic bore on cooperation relations and friendship between our two countries:

[Begin (Stillo) recording in Spanish with simultaneous translation into French] Within normal contacts, we came to hold talks with the president. Today we discussed the cooperation existing between our two countries. In this field, our relations are longstanding. In Cuba we are training Beninese specialists and technicians, who have benefited from scholarships granted by the Cuban Government. They are being trained in both secondary and higher education institutions. Right now, there are more than 130 Beninese students.

Our countries also maintain good cooperation. In Benin, there are Cuban technicians who are contributing to the development of this country in various fields. First of all, we have medical doctors serving in Cotonou and Parakou. In Parakou we have five medical doctors who are specialists in various fields, and are working in that city's hospital. Here in Cotonou, we have 13 comrades who are also working in the medical field. They include medical technologists. They are all working at the Cotonou hospital. In other fields, such as education — both secondary and higher — we have eight comrades teaching Spanish in some Porto Novo educational institutions, as well as at the Cotonou University. In sports, we have two coaches training the national boxing and basketball teams. [end recording]

Following his audience at the president's office, the SDAR ambassador told our colleague Sylvestre Zomahou about the purpose of his meeting with the head of state:

[Begin (Al-Haiba) recording] As you know, the purpose of my visit to the head of state falls within the framework of the regular contacts existing between our two governments — the government of the sisterly SDAR republic and the republic of Benin. I also went to inform our brother and Comrade, Mathieu Kerekou, president of the republic of Benin. This visit comes up on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle of national liberation of the Saharan people under the leadership of the Polisario Front. This anniversary comes up on 20 May. [end recording]

GAMBIA

Experts Seek Senegambia Monetary-Customs Union

AB221525 Dakar PANA in English 1422 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Banjul, 22 May (GINS/PANA) — The achievement of monetary and customs union is seen as a first step toward economic union between the Gambia and Senegal, Gambian and Senegalese experts concluded after two days of talks, which ended in Banjul on Saturday.

An outcome of their meeting was the setting up of two technical committees one of which has been charged with the task of looking into the possibility of The Gambia joining the Francophone West African Monetary Union.

The second technical committee will work out modalities for a free trade area on the lines of GATT.

GHANA

Rawlings, SFRY Minister Discuss Cooperation

AB222040 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The need for Ghana and Yugoslavia to cooperate in the economic, scientific, and technical fields was among the topics for discussion at the Castle Osu, today between the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, and the leader of the Yugoslav delegation attending the Ghana-Yugoslavia Permanent Joint Commission meeting, Mr Dimitrije Tasic.

Speaking to newsmen after his call on Chairman Rawlings, Mr Tasic said he reiterated his country's determination to assist Ghana in various fields, and also what it can contribute toward Ghana's economic recovery program. He added that his delegation aims at making it possible for Ghana and Yugoslavia to cooperate in various fields for the benefit of their peoples.

At the meeting was Mr Kwame Dwemo-Kessie, secretary for local government and leader of Ghana's delegation at the joint commission meeting.

Commander Explains Reasons for Military Restructuring

AB172030 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The force commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, has thrown more light on the restructuring of the Ghana Armed Forces, especially the Army. According to him, this will involve the amalgamation of certain units by way of manpower and equipment. There is therefore no truth in rumors that the 5th Batallion at Tamale is being disbanded.

Addressing a durbar of the officers and men of the 4th Batallion in Kumasi as part of his tour of military units in the city, Gen Quainoo explained that this batallion is being converted into a training batallion to make facilities for training more available. He made it clear that the restructuring exercise is only to make the Army a tight and an effective fighting force. The force commander hinted that welfare plans are being worked out for soldiers during, and after service. These include housing, insurance, and resettlement.

Reasons Behind Soviet Olympic Boycott Viewed

AB182100 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union has decided to boycott this year's Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles, United States of America, in July. Among the reasons it gives for this action are that the U.S. hosts have failed to make satisfactory arrangements for the safety of Soviet competitors, and that its athletes will be exposed to brainwashing by U.S. agents holding wads of American dollars. To put it more plainly, the Soviet athletes would be lured to defect to the West thus causing considerable embarassment to the USSR. In general, the Soviets say that America is more concerned about the parochial benefits it will derive from the games rather than the promotion of the Olympic spirit.

The Soviet concern arose from reports that many exiled Soviet and Eastern European immigrant groups in the U.S. plan hostile demonstrations against Soviet athletes. The Soviet Union is also no doubt painfully aware of the fact of the well-known practice in Western intelligence circles of enticing famous athletes, artists, writers, and diplomats from socialist countries with money and promises of a good life to defect to the West. The Soviets thus want to deny the West this potential harvest of defection, which the Soviet team will constitute while in the United States.

The Soviet boycott can also be understood against the background of Soviet leaders' determination not to do anything that will help the reelection prospects of Mr Reagan. As expected, the Soviet decision has been followed by that of other socialist countries such as the GDR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia in Europe, and Vietnam, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, and Laos in Asia. All of these countries are to varying degrees in the same situation as the Soviet Union and therefore share the concerns of the Soviets.

The United States has, of course, rejected the reasons given by the Soviet Union and said that, on the contrary, it has bent over backwards in taking measures to allay all Soviet apprehensions about the safety of its athletes. And realizing that the games will lose their attraction and universality by the Soviet boycott, the organizing committee has made several moves to get the Soviet Union to change its decision. But a few days after a visit to Moscow by the president of the committee, the Soviets have announced that their decision to boycott the games was final and irrevocable.

What is most interesting about the whole drama is that the single most important reason for the boycott has not been mentioned by the Soviets. Serious as the stated reasons are, it is true to say that the Soviet boycott is meant to avenge the U.S.-led boycott of the Moscow Olympics in 1980. Soviet national pride was seriously hurt by that boycott. The immediate reason for the U.S. action then was the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. We recall how the U.S. put everything it had into ensuring that the boycott really hit hard the Moscow games. It used its immense diplomatic and economic leverage on its allies and Third World countries to get them to stay away from the games. One recalls how even nonaligned Ghana under PNP [People's National Party] rule, like a puppet, danced to the U.S. tune and boycotted the games. It was rumored at the time that we did this in return for a promise of economic aid. It will be interesting to be told what we got out of it.

Now it is the turn of the Soviets, and whether they actually ask their friends to do so or not, they will be happy if more countries join their boycott. There will always be the likelihood of these boycotts so long as the Olympic Games are staged by any of the superpowers. These big powers with their determination to maintain so-called spheres of influence by force where necessary have generated strong feelings of either hostility or friendship among other nations. Whether in an Olympic [word indistinct] or not a superpower is bound to step on the toes of its rivals by some high-handed action or other. For example, if the Soviets had wanted to give other reasons, they could well have cited the U.S. invasion of Grenada and its destabilization of Nicaragua which are clearly equivalent to Afghanistan, if one disregards the Soviet contention that it went to Afghanistan at the invitation of the legitimate government there.

To stop the cold war from destroying the Olympic movement, none of the rival superpowers should be allowed to host the games in future. A suggestion has been made that the games should be staged permanently in Greece, their original home. But the world need not restrict itself so much. The games could be staged in all countries except the big powers and other countries where serious conflicts are in progress. It is true no country is completely free of conflict or controversy, not even Greece whose dispute with Turkey over Cyprus could provoke a Turkish boycott, but in most of the smaller countries, the risk of a massive boycott on the scale seen in 1980, and that is likely to be seen this year is quite minimal.

GUINEA

Moroccan Delegation Arrives To Discuss Cooperation

AB212240 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A Moroccan delegation arrived in Conakry this afternoon. Mohamed Boulah reports from the airport:

[Begin recording] A 23-member Moroccan delegation arrived in Conakry late this afternoon, Monday, 21 May 1984. This delegation, which is headed by Raffik Adaoui, an adviser at the prime minister's office, and which was accompanied by our ambassador to Morocco, Dr Kenkoura Camara, was welcomed at the Gbessia International Airport by an important delegation from the Military Committee for National Redress. [passage indistinct] The members of this delegation are the representatives of the Moroccan working class who have come to discuss with Guinean technicians, the ways and means of reviving the cooperation between the two countries. The two sides will establish a Guinea-Morocco cooperation agency that will later work from the basis of an expert commission between the two countries. We will talk about this later. [end recording]

Deliberations Begin

AB222130 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Discussions between Guinea and Morocco began today in Conakry. Boubakar Ba gives the details of the deliberations of this first day.

[Begin recording] Revive all the areas of cooperation between Guinea and Morocco by critically examining the successes and failures since the signing of the first agreements in 1960: This is the purpose of the working visit to our country by a 24-member [number as heard] Moroccan delegation since yestereday. The delegation is headed by Raffik Adaoui, a leader of delegations [charge de missions] at the Moroccan prime minister's office.

The first discussions between Guinean and Moroccan partners took place today, Tuesday, 22 May 1984, at the Action Hall of the People's Palace. The Guinean delegation, which was made up of representatives from all our ministries, was headed by our minister of cooperation, Captain Fode Momo Camara. The minister of interior and security, Herve Vincent, was also on the Guinean delegation. The opening session was addressed by the leaders of the two delegations. Eleven technical working commissions were established. In his opening speech, our minister of cooperation, first of all underlined the importance Guinea attaches to international cooperation, especially with a country with whom we have historical links. Capt Fode Momo Camara also pointed out the principal landmarks of this cooperation during the past 24 years, that is to say, since 1960. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Vieira Supports Southern Africa Liberation

AB181240 Dakar PANA in English 1145 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Bissau, 18 May (ANG/PANA) — President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau has restated his country's support for the peace initiatives in southern Africa undertaken by Mozambique and Angola.

Speaking at a rally in Bissau on Wednesday night, immediately after he had been sworn into office as the country's head of state, President Vieira said that the people of Guinea-Bissau were peace-loving, and this was one of the major reasons they supported the Lusaka agreement on the withdrawal of South African territory [as received], and the Nkomati Accord on non-aggression and goodneighbourliness signed between Mozambique and South Africa.

President Vieira said that he was convinced that the Lusaka and Nkomati agreements would help reestablish peace in southern Africa, and allow Mozambique and Angola to advance in their national development efforts.

He reaffirmed Guinean support for the liberation movements in southern Africa, and declared that the Organisation of African Unity had still not completed its historic mission of the total liberation of the African Continent. The people of the Western Sahara, he said, had a full right to be present in the OAU.

Earlier in the day, Joao Bernardo Vieira had been sworn into office by the president of the country's parliament, the people's National Assembly, Carmen Pereira. The assembly had earlier elected him president of the Council of State. This post automatically carries with it the attributes of head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

In taking the oath, President Vieira swore fidelity to the Constitution and laws of the republic, and to the aims of Guinea's political party, the PAIGC (of which he is general secretary). He pledged that he would defend the country's independence, and dedicate all his energies to serving Guinea-Bissau. This ceremony followed three and a half years in [words indistinct] the revolution, the body set up to run the country after the overthrow of the regime of Luis Cabral in November 1980.

IVORY COAST

President Receives Namibian Delegation

AB210631 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
19-20 May 84 page 26

[Unattributed article: "Lusaka, Point of Departure for a Fruitful Dialogue"]

[Text] On Thursday, the president of the republic, who recently held talks with SWAPO Chairman Sam Nujoma in Abidjan, received a delegation of the Multiparty Conference on Namibia, which just took part in the Lusaka meeting.

This delegation, which has already visited Gabon and Togo, came to brief the president on the situation prevailing in Namibia, and to ask for his advice on the best ways and means to achieve true and peaceful independence for Namibia, and the reconciliation of all the sons of the country. True to his policy of dialogue, the president of the republic listened without exception to all the views expressed by the various Multiparty Conference leaders with much interest, and encouraged them to persist in the search for Namibia's independence and the reconciliation of all the sons of Namibia.

The president of the republic pointed out that the recent Lusaka conference on Namibia must not be considered a failure, but rather as the start of sincere and fruitful dialogue among all Namibians. Contacts to achieve this goal must therefore be intensified. He will use his modest means to work in this direction because he is guided in this undertaking by one concern, namely, the achievement of Namibia's independence in peace and stability.

MALI

Assembly Speaker Receives Soviet, Malaysian Envoys

AB182225 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT
18 May 84

[Text] The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mady Sangare, received this morning His Excellency Yevegeniy Nersesov, USSR ambassador to Mali, and Zainal Haji Lembang, Malaysian ambassador to Mali.

Mady Sangare and Mr Nersesov talked about the friendly relations existing between Mali and the Soviet Union, the current world situation, and the role that Malian and Soviet parliamentarians could play in the preservation of world peace. The speaker of the National Assembly, Mady Sangare, and His Excellency Yevegeniy Nersesov expressed satisfaction with the similarity of their views on world issues.

For his part, the Malaysian ambassador to Mali, Zainal Haji Lembang, who was received this morning by Mady Sangare, expressed satisfaction with the opening of the Malaysian Embassy in Mali. Both men laid emphasis on the development of cooperation between the two countries, especially within the framework of self-sufficiency in food production in Mali. Mady Sangare expressed the hope that cooperation would be established on the parliamentary level between both countries.

Bamako Reports on Malian-Algerian Party Talks

AB191136 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The delegations of the FLN party of Algeria and the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] held their second working session late this morning. This second working session, which took place at the Mopti Hall of the Friendship Hotel, followed the first one held yesterday afternoon. The Algerian delegation was led by Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the permanent secretariat of the FLN Central Committee in charge of external relations, while the Malian delegation was led by Mohamedoum Hamani, external relations secretary of the Central Executive Bureau [BEC] of the UDPM, who was with (Nagote Ferdinand Agasse), secretary to the BEC in charge of relations with the National Union of the Malian workers, and Mrs Soumare Assa Diallo, secretary in charge of external relations of the National Union of Malian Women.

The FLN and UDPM delegations first of all signed a draft agreement on cooperation for 1984-85, and then a joint communique ending our Algerian guests' visit, was read by (Youssouf Sogoba), BEC secretary in charge of information and culture.

NIGERIA

Decrees Issued on Power Supremacy, Property Recovery

AB221602 Lagos NAN in English 1548 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 22 (NAN) — Two new decrees, the Federal Military Government (Supremacy and Enforcement of Powers) Decree 1984, and the Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunals) (Amendment No 2) Decree 1984, have been promulgated by the Federal Military Government.

An extraordinary government gazette, dated May 18 and made available to the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Lagos today, cited the two decrees as Decree No 13 and Decree No 14 respectively. According to the gazette, Decree No 13 reaffirms the supremacy of a decree or an edict over the modified or unsuspended provisions of the 1979 Constitution as contained in section 5 (1) of the Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree 1984. The new decree renders null and void any suit pending before any court of law challenging the competence of the federal or state military government to make any decree or edict.

Part of Decree No 13 reads: "No civil proceedings shall lie or be instituted in any court for, or on account of, or in respect of any act, matter or thing done, or purported to be done under or pursuant to any decree or edict, and if any such proceedings are instituted before, on or after the commencement of this decree, the proceedings shall abate, be discharged, and made void."

Decree No 14 or Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunals) (Amendment No 2) Decree amends the Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunals) Decree, 1984 to create the additional offence of aiding, counselling, procuring or conspiring with any other person to commit an offence under the decree.

The decree is also to render admissible the evidence of an accomplice and empower the tribunals to convict for an offence alternate to that charge.

According to the decree, "Where a person is charged with an offence but the evidence establishes an attempt to commit the offence, he may be convicted of having attempted to commit that offence, although the attempt is not separately charged and punished as provided in subsection (1) of this section."

"Where a person is charged with an offence under this decree, the offender shall not be entitled to acquittal but he may be convicted of that other offence and punished as provided in subsection (1) of this section." According to the extraordinary gazette, "the Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunals) Amendment Decree, 1984, is hereby repealed."

16 Students in Custody for Unlawful Demonstration

AB222216 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Sixteen students of the Kaduna College of Advanced Studies have been ordered to be remanded in prison custody by the Kaduna chief magistrate for allegedly staging an unlawful demonstration on the premises of the state's Scholarships Board. A report said (?during the demonstration) some workers were beaten up and property destroyed. The offense was commited on 7 December 1983. Hearing has been adjourned till the 24th of this month.

Bunkering Operations Limited to Five Companies

AB211751 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Five companies have been licensed by the Nigerian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy to handle all bunkering operations in the country's territorial waters. They include African Petroleum and Unipetrol, both of which are 100 percent Nigerian, as well as National Oil and Chemical Marketing Company, 60 percent Nigerian. Others are Texaco and Total, both 40 percent Nigerian.

A statement by the minister of petroleum and energy, Professor Tam David-West, in Lagos today said the affected companies must operate under certain conditions. These include the inscription of the word "bunkering" on any vessel used for the purpose. Another condition is that the companies should not use the services of a sub-agent for their bunkering operations. Also, payment for bunker fuels supplied to ships engaged in international trade must be in foreign currency, and this must be repatriated through the Central Bank of Nigeria within the period specified by the bank. The statement adds that any licensed company that fails to comply with those directives will have its license revoked. The minister announced that all licenses issued in respect of bunkering operations before 1 April 1984 had been revoked.

Judge Questions Military Tribunal's Jurisdiction

AB221758 Lagos NAN in English 1540 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 22 (NAN) — A Lagos High Court judge, Justice Roselinz Omotosho, today ruled that her court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for order to prohibit the Special Military Tribunal, Lagos Zone, from trying former Governors Bola Ige of Oyo, Bisi Onabanjo of Ogun, and Adekunle Ajasin of Ondo, all members of the banned UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria].

Justice Omotosho said that she was convinced that the military tribunal was not acting within the powers given it by attempting to try the ex-governors for offences allegedly committed in July last year. She said that the court, under its inherent jurisdiction, had a duty to "always ensure that governments, be they military or civilian, adhere to provisions of acts and keep their actions within the limit specified by law. Justice Omotosho said that where functionaries of government acted outside the provisions of the law, the court would continue to grant relief to the aggrieved citizen.

She further said that the tribunal, set up to determine cases affecting the right of citizens, was performing judicial functions and could therefore be supervised by the high court under the inherent supervisory function of a high court to a state.

The judge, however, said that she would have had no competence to hear the application if it were solely based on the fact that members of the special military tribunal by virtue of their position in the Armed Forces, had interest in the matter. Justice Omotosho refused to grant an application for a stay of proceedings on the tribunal.

In a swift reaction to the ruling, a legal adviser in the Federal Ministry of Justice, Mr Omotosho Adio, informed the court that Decree No 14 titled "The Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunal) (Amendment) Decree of 1984" had been promulgated by the Federal Military Government and has overtaken the ruling.

Counsel to the applications, Mr Gowin Ajayi (SAN) [expansion unknown] however, argued that since the court had ruled that the case could be entertained, it must be heard, adding that the decree could be considered during hearing.

The case was adjourned till tomorrow to enable Mr Ajayi to study the new decree.

UN Envoy Speaks on Returning Power to Civilians

AB222210 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Nigeria's permanent representative at the United Nations, retired Major General Joe Garba, has stated that the present military administration would hand over power to civilians after restoring the country's economy and the people's welfare to the proper positions. He said that the economy of the country had been in a shambles and a disgraceful (?condition) due to mismanagement by the ousted civilian administration.

In a speech in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S., Maj Gen Garba described the military administration as a benevolent government and not dictatorship. He added that democracy was not new to the military in Nigeria, becuase the present regime was in power from 1975 to 1979 before handing over power to civilians.

Maj Gen Garba had earlier been given the key to the city of Birmingham.

Botha Visit to Britain Could Harm Commonwealth

AB211229 Lagos International Service in English
0930 GMT 21 May 84

[From the "Viewpoint" program]

[Text] South Africa's prime minister, Pieter Botha, is scheduled to visit Britain next month at the invitation of the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. "Viewpoint" holds that the visit is uncalled for, and is an unwarranted disregard of internal opinion.

The flood of protests from both within and outside Britain, which has greeted Mrs Thatcher's invitation to her South African counterpart to visit London, is not without justification. Mr Pieter Willem Botha has the most repressive and morally bankrupt government in the world. The South African apartheid policy has been condemned by the United Nations, the OAU, the nonaligned nations and other international organizations. It is in abhorrence of that governmental policy of apartheid that South Africa has been virtually isolated by the rest of the world for more than decades now. It is also because of the apartheid that South Africa was expelled from the Commonwealth of the nations in 1961, with the concurrence of Britain, who is generally regarded as the mother of the Commonwealth. Since then, however, apartheid has grown more vicious, and the invitation by Mrs Thatcher to the chief priest of apartheid is seen as unwarranted negation of the principle which underlined the Commomwealth action against South Africa. It is also seen as a vain attempt at conferring international respectability if not acceptability on the obnoxious system of apartheid.

Mrs Thatcher has sought to explain away her action by comparing South Africa with the Soviet Union. But the communist ideology of the Soviet Union is not comparable to the obnoxious apartheid policy in South Africa. The British Prime Minister knows this. Therefore, her argument that she hopes to influence Mr Botha through dialogue is spurious. The United Nations and the Commonwealth, of which Britain is a member, have held dialogues with South Africa over the years without success. This is why political observers have been wondering what magic wand Mrs Thatcher would apply on Mr Botha to achieve what the whole world had failed to attain for decades now.

The futility of this venture has been made clear to the British premier by the OAU and certain governments, including the military administration in Nigeria. In a strongly worded letter of protest the OAU chairman, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, told Mrs Thatcher that the proposed visit of Mr Botha was undoubtedly intended to advance, as he put it, the ignominous and totally discredited policy of apartheid, and to confer an aura of respectability, and a seal of approval upon a morally bankrupt and repressive regime. In a similar note, the Nigerian military government dismissed Mrs Thatcher's reasons for inviting Mr Botha as unconvincing. The government warned the British Prime Minister that the visit, if carried out, will inflict damage not only on the anti-apartheid struggle but on the Commonwealth itself.

The Nigerian Government went further to observe that the British government under Mrs Thatcher, had taken no decisive steps to dissuade the British rugby team from undertaking its current tour of South Africa.

Nigeria then drew the conclusion that these two incidents appear to be part of a coordinated policy to give comfort to apartheid.

It is not too late for Mrs Thatcher to withdraw her invitation to the leader of the racist regime, in compliance with civilized opinion.

SATELLITE Attacks Botha Visit to Britain

AB211024 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 21 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Writting under the caption "Thatcher Much Against History," the *SATELLITE* enjoins the Federal Military in condemning the proposed visit to Britain next month by the South African prime minister. The paper, however, endorses the Nigerian military Government's decision in sending a powerful delegation to the UKas part of the effort to stop the proposed visit. The *SATELLITE* observes that the British Government of Mrs Magaret Thatcher has been playing a double standard role in the fight against apartheid regime in South Africa. That situation, it says, has to be settled once and for all.

TOGO

President Gnassingbe Eyadema Leaves for Romania

AB221401 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the republic, left Lome this morning at 0700 for the Socialist Republic of Romania for a 4-day official visit at the invitation of his Romanian counterpart, Nicolae Ceausescu.

UPPER VOLTA

New Youth Minister Appointed by Decree

AB220836 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0630 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The chairman of the National Revolutionary Council hereby decrees:

Article 1. The appointment of the minister of youth and sports, Comrade Ibrahima Kone has been terminated.
Article 2. Comrade Ibrahima Kone, a civil administrator of his state, has been placed at the disposal of the minister of interrior and security for employment.
Article 3. Captain Henri Zongo, the minister in charge of state companies, has been charged to act as the minister of youth and sports.
Article 4. The present decree will be published wherever appropriate.

[Signed]Ouagadougou, 21 May 1984, Captain Thomas Sankara

Sankara Receives Ghanaian Trade Delegation

AB221536 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, received this morning John Ndeburgre, and Ato Ahwoi, respectively secretaries for agriculture and trade of the Republic of Ghana. After the audience they told the press that they came to pledge again Ghana's political support to the Upper Voltan authorities. They have also paved the way for commercial cooperation. Listen to an excerpt of the interview that they granted to the Upper Voltan and Ghanaian press:

[Begin recording] [Ahwoi in English fading into French translation] We are here on a delegation to discuss certain aspects of the economic cooperation between Ghana and Upper Volta with the head of state and president of the National Council of the Revolution. It is important that when we are in Ouagadougou we should call on him, and we have also had the opportunity to seek his assurance for continued political support for the cooperation that we want to carry out in the economic sector, specifically dealing with the exchange of cattle and other produce between Upper Volta and Ghana.

[Unidentified reporter] In the area of trade, many sessions have been held by the delegations of the two countries. As the responsible secretary for trade in Ghana, can you tell us what areas you deem as priorities?

[Ahwoi] Ghana imports cattle from Argentina, for example, and I think that it is possible to establish cooperation between Upper Volta and Ghana, because Upper Volta has considerable ovine and bovine potential. As a coastal country, Ghana produces salt. It is therefore possible to establish cooperation in these areas, for example.

[Reporter] When will the new program be launched?

[Ahwoi] We have come here for this reason. We hope that within 2 weeks we will start our exchanges. Ghana has already provided transportation for some products to Paga. So we think the program will take off almost automatically. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Prisoner Exchange With RSA at Ongiva

MB221930 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The exchange of prisoners between South Africa and Angola which was to have taken place yesterday, but which was postponed because of problems on the Angolan side took place at the Angolan town of Ongiva just after lunch today. The commander of the South African contingent on the Joint Monitoring Commission, Colonel Piet Hall, under whose supervision the exchange took place, said the exchange was an honest attempt on the part of both countries to bring about peace in southern Africa. The exchange was made at about 2:30 this afternoon, when a member of the South-West Africa Territory Force, Rifleman Petrus Kandjendje, arrived at the exchange venue on board an aircraft of the International Red Cross. Fifteen Angolan prisoners had been taken to Ongiva on board Air Force helicopters.

An agreement in terms of which the exchange was executed was signed by representatives of the International Red Cross and the South African and Angolan departments of foreign affairs. Col Hall confirmed at Ongiva that the Cuban solider and about 14 other Angolan troops would probably be handed over to Angola at Ongiva tomorrow.

FAPLA Forces Kill 127 UNITA 'Criminals'

MB230718 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Forces of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] have killed 127 UNITA criminals in mopping-up operations against the enemies of our people in Moxico, Bie, Uige [as heard], and Huambo Provinces.

In Bie Province, the fighting occurred 37 km from the municipality of Andulo, while in Moxico FAPLA soldiers annihilated UNITA bandits in the municipality of Lumeie, and in the regions bordering Bie.

Meanwhile, in Uige Province FAPLA soldiers inflicted heavy blows on a group of conterrevolutionaries, who were trying to infiltrate into the municipality of Sanza Pombo to destabilize the local people. In the central plateau, the bravery of the glorious FAPLA soldiers was felt in (Sacachoupo), Bailundo, and Huambo when they promptly repulsed a large group of bandits.

76 Massacred by UNITA 'Bandits' in Benguela

AB221844 Dakar PANA in English 1802 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Benguela (Angola), 22 May (ANGOP/PANA) — Bandits of the South African sponsored UNITA group have massacred 76 civilians in the central Angolan Province of Benguela, according to a military spokesman contacted by the Angolan news agency, ANGOP, today.

The massacre took place on 12 May in the village of Chicuma in the far southeastern corner of the province. In the attack, the bandits wounded a further 26 people, and kidnapped 24 others, mainly old men, women, and children. An IFA [expansion unknown] truck used by the villagers was destroyed by the bandits, and two tractors were damaged. These had been used by cooperatives and peasants associations in the area, which is of considerable agriculture importance. The bandits burned down 385 houses, and sacked shops, storerooms full of agricultural produce, and the local hospital.

The people of Chicuma resisted the attack and succeeded in killing five of the raiders. The military spokesman added that the Angolan defence forces have taken the measures necessary to pursue and wipe out the group of murderers. He said that the bandits, unable to fight against the Angolan Army, are continuing to concentrate their criminal activities against defenceless civilians.

Ministers Leave for SADCC Meeting in Malawi

MB201240 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy, minister of energy and petroleum, left yesterday morning for Malawi, where he will participate in a meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC]. Pedro de Castro van Dunem is leading a delegation that includes Ismael Martins, minister of foreign trade, and Carlos Fernandes, state secretary for cooperation.

Cooperation Agreement With Vietnam Signed

MB221548 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed in Luanda yesterday, between Angola and Vietnam in education, health, and technical assistance. The agreement was signed after talks were held in Luanda by a Vietnamese delegation headed by that country's vice minister of education and vocational training and an Angolan delegation led by Joao Felipe Martins, Angolan deputy minister for secondary and higher education.

During talks, the two parties exchanged information and ideas that enabled them to familiarize themselves with and identify concrete areas for bilateral cooperation. The Vietnamese minister expressed his readiness to broaden the development of economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation in the sectors of interest to both Angola and Vietnamese.

Aside from the meeting with Comrade Joao Felipe Martins, the visiting delegation also held meetings with Venancio de Moura, deputy foreign minister; Joaquim Antonio de (Roxo), deputy agriculture minister; Graciano Mande, deputy agriculture minister for forest resources; and Luis Gomes (Sambu), deputy health minister.

BOTSWANA

Vice President Leaves For Malawi SADCC Meeting

MB221652 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, left the country for Lilongwe, Malawi, to attend the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] Council of Minsters meeting, of which he is chairman. He will be joined at the meeting by the acting executive secretary of SADCC, Mr (Liba Mpoto Kwani), who has been in Lilongwe since last week attending the preparatory meeting for the Council of Ministers meeting. One of the issues to be discussed will be the preparation of the SADCC heads of state meeting, which will be held in Gaborone in the first week of July.

MALAWI

Banda Orders Release of 13 Prisoners

MB221457 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] His excellency the life president has ordered the release today of 13 prisoners. Announcing this in Lilongwe, the Office of the President and Cabinet said in a press release that some of those released had been jailed because they contravened the solemn convention of public abstinence of Martyr's Day. The press release said that such contraventions were sacrilegious, since on this day we recall with solemnity those who had offered their lives in the struggle for our liberty and happiness. It added that among those released, others were interned because they acted in a manner that was clearly intended to undermine the stability of our lives. The press release said they did so by propagating (?cliches) whose well-known objectives were contrary to the very foundations of the Malawi nation.

MOZAMBIQUE

147 'Armed Bandit Collaborators' Surrender

MB221314 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A total of 147 collaborators of the armed bandits have surrendered to the Mozambique authorities in the Namarroi District in Zambezia Province. The surrendering of these criminals follows the stepping up of the FPLM's mopping up operations against the armed bandits.

According to Radio Mozambique in Namarroi, the collaborators expressed their disappointment with the false promises made by the armed bandits. In a meeting with the administrator of that district, they pledged to denounce other collaborators and armed bandits.

Nigeria's Gambari Arrives in Maputo for Talks

AB222128 Dakar PANA in English 1744 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Maputo, 22 May (AIM/PANA) — Nigeria's minister for external affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, arrived in Maputo this afternoon for a three-day official visit to Mozambique. He was met at Maputo's international airport by Mozambican foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano. Shortly after his arrival here from Dar es Salaam, Mr Gambari began official talks with a delegation led by the Mozambican foreign minister.

The Nigerian external affairs minister is scheduled to pay visits tomorrow to the Museum of the Revolution, and the Maputo oil refinery.

This is Mr Gambari's first visit to Mozambique.

Machel Meets With Nampula Province Officials

MB221609 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] President Samora Machel and members of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party had a meeting yesterday afternoon with the provincial administration of the northern Mozambican province of Nampula. Also present at the meeting were the administrators of all the districts in the province.

Under discussion was the social, political, economic, and military situation in Nampula Province. This was the latest in a series of top-level meetings which have been held in Nampula since the president arrived there last Friday. Over the weekend, there was a 2-day session of the Political Bureau, and yesterday morning President Machel met provincial military commanders and officers from the Armed Forces General Staff. Decisions which have been taken at the various meetings are expected to be announced at a mass rally to be held in Nampula this week.

Maputo Concerns Over MNR Terrorism Cited

MB221226 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 22 May 84 p 9

[Article by Benjamin Pogrund "After a Visit to Maputo"]

[Text] There has been no drop in the Mozambique National Resistance movement's (MNR's) terror campaign since the signing of the Nkomati Accord two months ago, according to senior officials in the Mozambique Government.

If anything, the MNR has become "more vicious," with more deliberate terrorist acts directed against civilians. Murder, robbery, rape and destruction remain commonplace.

All that has changed since the accord was signed on March 16, say the officials, is the geography of the MNR's targets — the focus has moved close to the capital of Maputo, although within the city itself there is no visible sign of insurgent activity, to the southern areas neighbouring the South African border and to the Nampula district.

These assessments, gleaned from a range of discussions in Maputo, puzzingly contradict a reported statement by Mozambique's Information Minister Jose Cabaco in Lisbon on Friday that "there has been a considerable drop in rebel activity since the Nkomati Accord and we believe this pattern will continue."

In Maputo, Mozambicans in leadership positions are convinced about the South African Government's good faith in implementing the terms and the promise of the accord.

But they say they are equally certain there is a split inside South Africa's ruling ranks — and that what they describe as "certain elements" in the South African Defence Force are behind the continuing violence and efforts to overthrow the Maputo government.

"I have no doubt at all about the commitment of the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and his Government to peace and the implementation of the Nkomati Accord," says a Mozambican official who has attended many of the meetings between the two countries.

Like the others interviewed, he requested anonymity.

"We disagree on many things but I have formed the impression that they are men of honour," he says. "They are not dishonest men. When they give their word they respect it."

But he and others repeatedly and angrily point to the MNR's ongoing violence and say they believe it to be backed from inside South Africa. "Before the signing at Nkomati people were getting ready to go on with attacks on us," they say.

They say that, according to their information, a large amount of arms and ammunition was brought across the border from South Africa only a few days before the signing ceremony.

As recently as last month, at least two loads of arms and ammunition were brought in by sea north of Beira. And captured MNR members claim there were crossings from South Africa during the second half of last month.

Questioned, the official would not say whether details such as these had been put before the joint South Africa-Mozambique security commission. What happened inside the commission was confidential, he said. The furthest he would go was to say that the information which his government had was not the sort that could be put before a court of law.

The Mozambique Government believes there are about 5,000 armed men in the country. Perhaps another 5,000 are involved with the MNR as porters and in support jobs. Many of them are forced labourers. It is thought the MNR has been sending small groups towards the capital with the aim of infiltration. About 70 men, some carrying arms, have been arrested inside Maputo itself.

A train was attacked about 90 km from Maputo, and shops and property in the rural areas are being destroyed. It is considered unsafe — especially at night — to drive the first 30km or so from the South African border at Komatipoort to Maputo.

But serious as all this is, it does not approximate to the claims made in Lisbon at the weekend by the MNR's secretary general, Evo Fernandes, that "electricity and water supplies are only reaching Maputo intermittently, rail communications have been cut and it is unsafe to travel to the suburbs of Maputo because of our attacks." Nor is there any basis to believing his further claim that President Samora Machel has asked the South African Government to send troops to help defend Maputo against increasing attacks by the MNR.

These issues apart, the Mozambicans argue that there are several reasons why the "certain elements" in South Africa are trying to keep the MNR alive.

"South Africa still has commitments to the Lesotho rebels and to its biggest baby, UNITA," says an official. "What is the morale among them going to be if they see someone is being abandoned? So some people in South Africa feel they must show they are not entirely abandoning friends. Also, if there's peace on the border, South African 'hawks' won't be able to use this to stir up people. Instead, South Africa's internal problems will have to be faced up to and solved. So they don't want peace on the border."

The official compared it with the end of the Algerian war for independence — which he witnessed — "when in that moment there was terrible trouble within the French army because some officers felt obligated to carry on."

In addition, he says, some South Africans - because of "paranoia and prejudice" - oppose the fact of a Marxist government in Mozambique and they view the Nkomati agreement as "a defeat for their outlook."

At the same time the Mozambicans pin their hopes on Mr Botha's Nkomati pledges. This, they say, will "eventually" cause the MNR to die away.

"You can't run a covert operation, like the one for the MNR in South Africa, for a long time without the government becoming aware of it and responding," they say. "We hope that within a year from now there will not be any security commission because there will be no security problems for us to talk about," says an official.

Meanwhile, Mozambicans ask what has happened to the MNR members who were in South Africa — have they been sent away as Mozambique has done to scores of African National Congress [ANC] members who lived there? How is South Africa controlling the MNR members? "No one has yet given answers to these questions," they say.

On the other side of the coin, the officials say they have done everything they promised to do about the ANC. Their claims are confirmed by ANC members: only 10 have been allowed to remain in Maputo to man a "diplomatic-type" office; from 100 to 200 have been "asked to leave" since Nkomati.

The officials add that it is impossible to put a total halt to ANC insurgents who might want to cross through Mozambique to get to South Africa. "No one can do so — neither us nor the South

African army. If they get to Johannesburg they will have crossed hundreds of kilometers not only of Mozambique but also of South Africa.

"But one thing we can say: we are not going to close our eyes — although, mind you, there were not all that number of people involved and we never allowed training camps here."

David Capel reports that a spokesman for Foreign Affairs in Cape Town, when asked to comment, said the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had both stated repeatedly in public in the past that the South African Government would adhere to the spirit and letter of the Nkomati agreement. He said the agreement made provisions for a joint security commission to investigate allegations from both sides.

A joint statement was issued after a recent meeting of the commission which reflected the attitude of both governments. The commission would meet again on May 25.

A Mozambican Government spokesman, Mr Jacinto Veloso, never raised any of these allegations on returning to Maputo after meeting Mr Pik Botha. Both men had expressed satisfaction with the progress made since March 16.

The spokesman also referred to a statement Mr Pik Botha made towards the end of last week in which he warned against disinformation campaigns aimed at sowing suspicion. He said if official complaints were being made, they could be brought to the attention of the commission.

Resistance Official Predicts Talks with Maputo

MB181025 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Mozambican Government is going to talk to the Mozambican National Resistance [RENAMO] soon. That has been predicted by RENAMO General Secretary Evo Fernandez. He says the government will start negotiations with RENAMO within 5 months. He says increasing attacks near the capital, Maputo, will force the government to the conference table. Fernandez also claimed that Mozambique has requested military assistance from South Africa and that Pretoria is studying the possibility of helping, but Fernandez denies the Mozambican Government's private accusations that South Africa is still supporting RENAMO, despite having signed the Nkomati Accord in mid-March. UPI quotes independent sources as saying that since the accord, RENAMO insurgents have been striking within 12 km of the capital.

NAMIBIA

UN Council on Namibia Question Meets in Bangkok

For Thai reportage of the United Nations Council for Namibia extraordinary plenary meeting in Bangkok, including its official opening by Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, comments by Council president Paul J.F. Lusaka, andcontents of the committee declaration, see the International section of the 22 May Asia & Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SOUTH AFRICA

Angolan POWs Leave for Luanda in Exchange

MB222008 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1954 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Ngiva, May 22, SAPA — The 15 released Angolan prisoners of war this afternoon arrived to a rousing welcome by residents of the town who sang in Oshiwambo and gave clenched fist salutes.

They were received under heavy armed guard, and were welcomed by the commanding officer of the Angolan component of the Joint Monitoring Commission with South Africa, Major Mello Xavier and members of the Foreign Affairs Department.

Speaking through interpreters, that said they had been taught Afrikaans and English while at the Mariental Detention Camp in SWA/Namibia. They said they were glad to leave it.

Asked as to their future plans, they said they would again join FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for The Liberation of Angola] and were not deterred by having been captured.

Contrary to earlier reports that they had been captured in cross-border "pre-emptive" Cassinga raids, they told journalists they had been captured at Ngiva.

After the welcoming ceremony, they boarded a Russian Antonov-26 carrier plane and flew to Luanda. The airport, only about six kilometres from the town, showed signs of war. Heavily armed FAPLA soldiers surrounded the building and the immediate area while South African soldiers, doing duty in the JMC, stood nearby. There was not a single windown pane intact in the airport building, and huge holes had been blasted into by what appears to have been heavy artillery.

As one journalist said: "It certainly needs no ventilation."

Yet its run-way was quite well-kept as we landed in a SADF [South African Defense Force] Dakota.

Explosion Damages Mines Offices in Free State

MB221120 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Mine offices in the Free State town of Welkom have been damaged in an explosion. Brian Emeness has details:

[Emeness] Late last night a bomb explosion ripped through five offices of the foreign section of the holdings division of Western Holdings Gold Mine in Welkom. The offices were completely destroyed.

According to the police, there were no fatalities. A heavy security blanket has been thrown around the mine as sabotage is suspected. Production will continue as normal at the mine. Police say a large quantity of explosives caused the blast, but they have not said immediately who they suspect as behind the attack.

Homes of AZAPO Members Raided by Police

MB221204 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Police have raided the homes of a number of Azanian People's Organization [AZAPO] members. AZAPO Executive Member Strini Moodley says police confiscated large quantities of documents and personal papers. He says he has been told that other AZAPO members nationwide have also been raided:

[Begin Moodley recording] Our stand against the Constitution, our stand against the entire policies of the government in this country, are correct — they are morally justified — and, as we see it, if the government of this country claims it is a democracy, if this government claims that it is bent upon a program of peace, then these raids against AZAPO members are evidence of, in fact, a contrary approach. This is merely a continuation of the government's total onslaught against legitimate opposition to its policies and program. [end recording]

Raid Extends Nationwide

MB221358 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] South African security police have launched concerted nationwide raids on homes of Azanian People's Organization [AZAPO] members. According to reports, the raids took place at the homes of AZAPO leaders in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, and the eastern Cape. The home of Black Consciousness leader Peter Jones was raided by police early this morning, and a number of documents have been confiscated. Police have described the action as routine investigations.

Earlier, chair of AZAPO's Natal Region, Strini Moodley, said hundreds of documents, including personal diaries, were seized by police in an early morning raid. In Johannesburg, police conducted a 3-hour search of the Lenasia home of the head of AZAPO's health secretariat, Abu-bakar Asvat. Asvat says police also raided several homes in the township. There have been no reports of arrests.

MPC's Mudge Comments on Meeting With Crocker

MB221303 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Multiparty Conference in South-West Africa, Mr Dirk Mudge, says the American Government has welcomed the conference's recent peace initiatives. Mr Mudge was commenting in Washington on the meeting between a delegation of the Multiparty Conference and the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker. He said the United States had undertaken not to stand in the way of such initiatives provided these do not interfere with the existing plans for the territory's independence.

Mr Mudge described the delegation's talks with Dr Crocker and a senior advisor of his department as successful. Our representative in Washington reports that the delegation will have talks with the American secretary of state, Mr George Schultz, today.

Trade Official Comments on Visit to Mozambique

MB221629 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A senior official of the South African Foreign Trade Organization, Miss Sally Gallagher, says the recent visit to Mozambique by South African businessmen is regarded in Mozambique as one of the major results of the Accord of Nkomati. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Miss Gallagher said the visit had created confidence, trust, and mutual respect. She said that South African technicians would be visiting Mozambique soon to examine the practical aspects of South African companies entering into certain projects in that country.

Finance Minister Views Aim of Trip to UK, Europe

MB200912 Johannesburg International Service in English 0700 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] The South African minister of finance, Mr Owen Horwood, leaves for Britain and Europe this weekend. Here he outlines details of his trip to Gerhard Slabbert of our economic news staff:

[Begin recording] [Horwood] I will be seeing a number of leading bankers, and I will be negotiating some loans ahead for the rest of the year. Our credit rating, fortunately, is very, very good, so it is a good time to do so. I shall also be meeting some ministers of finance and industrialists and others, but the main purpose will be to see the bankers.

[Slabbert] Will South Africa's deficit on the balance of payments have any effect on our ability to negotiate for loans?

[Horwood] No, definitely not. The deficit is something one would simply have to expect with the relatively low gold price, and with the fact that instead of exporting maize in big quantities we are importing in big quantities — that has a very adverse effect. This is very well understood in banking circles, and it will have no effect at all, I can assure you, because apart from anything else, the deficit of course is entirely manageable. It is well under control. [end recording]

Radio Cites Need for Western Naval Weapons

MB220848 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 22 May 84

[Station Commentary: "South Africa's Armaments Industry"]

[Text] The announcement by the South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, that the country has the capability of manufacturing submarines and helicopters is significant in more ways than one. It is a reflection of the extent to which South Africa's armaments industry has developed in a relatively short space of time, and it underlines the fact that despite the peace initiatives between the republic and its neighboring states, South Africa remains aware of the threat which outside forces pose not only to itself, but to the entire subcontinent.

South Africa has not only survived the international arms embargo imposed against it more than a decade ago, but in that time has developed its own armaments industry to the extent that it is now self-sufficient and is, in fact, a world leader in artillery manufacture. It was only a matter of time before it reached the stage of being able to build its own submarines and helicopters. That stage has now been reached. It is a fitting tribute to South African know-how and expertise, but the defense for the west of the Cape sea route around the Cape of Good Hope demands much more than South Africa alone can provide.

This fact has been pointed to on numerous occasions by one of the world's most respected naval experts, Captain John Moore, editor of the authoritative publication, *JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS*. Castigating the West for continuing to deny war ships to South Africa in defense of the Cape sea route, Captain Moore has repeatedly urged Western politicians to help the South African Navy to play a role in the defense of the West. As one of the world's most strategic waterways, the Cape sea route has become increasingly vulnerable with the massive build up of the Soviet Union's naval power.

The Soviet Union has not deviated from one of its stated goals of gaining control of South Africa and indeed the whole of southern Africa. To do this, it must apply pressure not only on the land but also on the sea. The peace initiatives between the governments of Southern Africa are relieving the pressure on land, but sophisticated naval weapons, which the West can supply in its own interests, are required to secure the safety of the Cape sea route.

MPC Official Says SWAPO Strategy Unacceptable

MB211539 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Mr Hedwig Rudolf, the Multiparty Conference [MPC] of South-West Africa's adviser on Africa, says SWAPO's radical methods for achieving the independence of South-West Africa are unacceptable to some African leaders. Mr Rudolf, in a London radio interview, said the visit of the MPC delegation to African countries signals a new approach toward a peaceful solution of the South-West African question. A part of the MPC delegation is presently in Washington, while the other part remained in London for talks with British officials.

Opposition Spokesman Views Black Political Rights

MB211310 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1059 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] House of Assembly, May 21, SAPA — The government's withholding of genuine political rights from blacks was in fact an incitement to them to use other than purely constitutional means to attain these rights, the official position spokesman on manpower, Dr Aelx Boraine, said today.

Speaking in debate on the manpower portfolio, he pointed out that nearly two thirds of the nine million economically active people in South Africa were blacks, and that the new approach to labour relations was still in its infancy in a fluid and fragile situation. "When we bear this in mind, one begins to comprehend the complexity which has all the potential of a battlefield.

"The government's witholding of genuine political rights exacerbates this complexity and is in fact an incitement to blacks to use other than purely constitutional means to attain their political rights, putting trade unions under tremendous pressure," he said.

Dr Boraine said he had no doubt the overwhelming majority of black trade union leaders saw the struggle for better wages and improved working conditions as their top priority.

"But they are as aware as any that political power can achieve economic and social gains which are not within their grasp." These leaders were under unbelievable pressure from many of their members who were angry and disillusioned at their continuing third class citizenship existence.

The "galloping" rate of general sales tax [GST] further aggravated the already potentially explosive situation "and the hamhanded, clumsy way in which the most recent increase has been handled has not helped either," Dr Boraine said.

Black workers had absolutely no say and no leverage in the corridors of power and their trade unions had no sooner negotiated for a relatively small wage increase than it was overtaken by G.S.T. "Many of them are living from hand to mouth and every new increase creates greater desperation and increased pressure on trade union leaders as well as on management."

Another reason for the pressure cookers heating up was recent legislation to bring about equal taxation. "it was brought about a shriller and more urgent demand for equal facilities for equal taxation, and above all, equal representation for equal taxation," he said.

Other factors were the ravages brought about by the recent and continued drought, which caused extreme hardship and a further movement from the rural areas to the cities, and the recession, which had bitten hard, with black unemployment continuing to spiral. "It has now reached what can only be described as alarming proportions, with no sign of the economic recession being eased."

Much of black unemployment was not merely cyclical but structural, meaning that even if the economic situation should improve dramatically, it did not necessarily follow that the unemployment situation would improve.

It was clear that the white population was not able now, and never would be able, to meet the increasing demands of the South African economy without heavy reliance on black workers. The fact was that white and black were economically interdependent.

"It is imperative that we should not only be sensitive and aware in terms of labour legislation and labour relations, but that we are sitting on a time bomb until we attend to fundamental rights for blacks," Dr Boraine said.

50 Transkei University Students Arrested

MB221826 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] More than 50 University of Transkei students are reported to have been arrested. According to a university source, they were arrested during a meeting in Umtata which was called to discuss the situation at the university. The source says soon after the meeting started, police moved in and charged at the students with sjamboks [whips] and batons. He says more than 50 students have been taken to the Umtata police station. Classes at the university were suspended following unrest last week, and all students have been given until Friday to reregister.

Three Sentenced in Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial

MB221509 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Three men found guilty on a charge of planting bombs at Supreme Court buildings in Pietermaritzburg were sentenced today. Judge D.D.V. Kannemeyer, in the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg, sentenced Sithabiso Mahlobo to 20 years imprisonment yesterday. Benedict Martins, who was convicted on a terrorism charge, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. Judge Kannemeyer sentenced Duma Gqubule, found guilty of participating in ANC activities, to 30 months imprisonment. This sentence was suspended for 5 years. The three men were charged with planting bombs in the old and new Supreme Court buildings in Pietermaritzburg. One man was seriously injured in the explosions, which caused damage estimated at thousands of rands.

SWAZILAND

ANC Activists in Custody May Be Moved

MB221605 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 22 May 84 p 3

[*OBSERVER* Reporter]

[Text] African National Congress [ANC] activists who are being held in custody for illegal possession of arms, may be moved from Swaziland.

The government has described as a "good idea" suggestions from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees headquarters in Geneva that ANC militants be moved from Southern African states bordering South Africa.

The suggestions were made by the Director of International Protection in the UNHCR, Mr P. Moussalli, who visited the Kingdom a few weeks ago to discuss refugee problems.

The principal secretary in the Ministry of Interior, Mr Vusi Mamba, said the militants were destabilizing South Africa's neighbours and their departure would ease tension between South Africa and her neighbors.

He said: "It is the cardinal policy of the Swaziland Government not to accomodate refugees who will use the country for springboard attacks against neighbors. Their being moved is taken to mean that the Kingdom wants to live in peace.

He cited the Organization of African Unity convention which states that granting refugees political asylum is a humanitarian act. He said refugees granted asylum were not meant to stage subversive activities against the country they had fled from. He would not commit himself when asked what would happen to the charges of illegal importation of arms which were laid on the ANC cadres.

He said he was speaking on a broad perspective and not citing one country in the Southen region. Mr Moussalli is said to have reported in Geneva that the ANC cadres appear to be under pressure to leave Southern African states where they sought their refuge.

Mr Mamba said the presence of the ANC cadres has created hostility between the countries where they live in South Africa. He said although he had been out of the country for six years, he believed Swaziland cannot afford to harbour refugees who will use the country as a base to attack the countries they ran away from.

ZAMBIA

Botha Cites 'Problems' in Angola Withdrawal

MB221149 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, says the disengagement of South African troops from southern Angola has reached an advanced stage, and it could be completed in a matter of days rather than weeks. Mr Botha was speaking at Lusaka Airport shortly before leaving for home after attending a meeting of the joint South African-Angolan permanent commission. In answer to questions, Mr Botha said the meeting was held under the terms of the commission, which provided that the parties should meet at least once in 30 days to review the activities in monitoring the cease-fire. He admitted that the two countries were facing a number of problems, but said that these were not insurmountable. Mr Botha said the meetings between Angola and South Africa would continue.

Governor Asks for Cultural Exchange With PRC

MB221432 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Kitwe District Governor (Chiende Kapini) has called for a coordinated program of cultural exchanges between China and Zambia. The governor was speaking in Kitwe last night before the visiting Zhejiang Arts Troupe entertained hundreds of Kitwe residents at Buchi Hall. Mr (Kapini) said cultural exchanges between the two countries would go a long way to strengthening relations at the grass roots level. The governor said the people of China and Zambia would appreciate their close relations more when they understood each other's culture. He paid tribute to the Chinese leadership for encouraging the people to preserve their strong culture.

ZIMBABWE

Local Party Leaders To Receive Militia Training

MB221717 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The government will soon start militia training for all local party leaders who are possible dissident targets. This was announced by the deputy minister of defense responsible for paramilitary training, Comrade William Ndangana, in an interview with the *HERALD* yesterday. Comrade Ndangana said that the move had been precipitated by the recent murder of ZANU-PF officials. The minister said the program, to be called the (Chimbi Chimbi) militia training program, will be conducted in coordination with law enforcing agents to protect leaders.

The program will run concurrently with the normal training of militiamen, which has so far trained more than 8,000 people. Comrade Ndangana said the number of people to be trained in the new program will depend on the number of volunteers.

Mangwende Gives Luncheon for CSSR Counterpart

MB221724 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, has accused the racist Pretoria regime of being possessed by a blind irrational passion to immortalize facism.

Speaking at a luncheon held in honor of the visiting Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek, Comrade Mangwende said the acts of destabilization carried out daily by Pretoria are a mere extension of the apartheid policy pursued in South Africa itself. Comrade Mangwende praised Czechoslovakia for the aid given to Zimbabwe in various fields, including science and technology.

Army Commander Criticizes Atrocity Reporting

MB190900 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The acting commander of the 1st Brigade, Colonel (Derick Magama), says the recent allegations of atrocities by the Zimbabwe National Army [ZNA] in Matabeleland South are a deliberate attempt by the western media to frustrate the Army's fighting spirit. Col (Magama) said this when he reviewed a passing-out parade of 13 members of the Zimbabwe Women's Services at (Brady) Barracks in Bulawayo yesterday. He said the negative reporting by the Western media will not deter the ZNA in its efforts fight against enemies of the government.